

FRENCH AND ENGLISH IDIOMS AND PROVERBS

ALPH. MARIETTE



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WITH

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTES

BY

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Late French Tutor to Their Royal Highnesses
The Duke and Duchess of York

IN THREE VOLUMES

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BY SPECIAL GRACIOUS PERMISSION

TO

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK

In grateful remembrance of much condescension and kindness received, and as a humble token of the gratitude and profound respect of their most loyal servant

ALPH. MARIETTE.

PREFACE

AN Italian proverb declares that a man has lived to no purpose unless he has either built a house, begotten a son, or written a book. I have not fulfilled the first of these requisites, and hope never to do so, although I have unfortunately done, several times over, the next most foolish thing, buying a house for other people to live in. As to the second qualification that constitutes a useful life, I am thankful to say I have done my fair share of parental duty; nor am I a novice in book-making. Here I am again, however, anxious to fulfil once more the third requisite of the Italian axiom, once more trying to make myself useful in my generation within my very humble means.

Having for many years acted as examiner in several of the highest and largest schools and colleges in England, and having been privileged to conduct for no less than forty years without interruption the French examinations of that most excellent institution, the Society of Arts, whose educational work, to say nothing of its other high pursuits, supplies one of the noblest specimens of English self-government, I have naturally had ample opportunities of noticing the utter ignorance of the English student in the matter of French idioms and proverbs—an ignorance which is more than equalled, I grieve to say, by that of nearly the whole of the French community as to the niceties—I had almost said the most simple features—of the English language.

I have therefore thought it right to do my best in the way of helping to fill up such a gap, and to create an interest in that practical direction. And I may add that these little volumes are emphatically a work of love, prompted by a genuine desire to contribute their small share to the more complete understanding between the two countries for which they are intended. Whatever friction, under the baneful impulse of that unamiable lady, *Madame la Politique*, may now and then arise on trifling matters, which can hardly be altogether avoided between two countries that have so many points of contact, it is my fervent prayer that there may never again occur any serious outbreak of hostility between the land of my birth and deep affection on the one hand, and, on the other, the home of most of my kindest friends, that glorious land of liberty, where I have had many opportunities, during a very long residence, of admiring a matchless sense of virility, and the steadfast pursuit of all that makes life honourable, and social intercourse genial and healthy.

I am satisfied that to bring about a closer feeling of mutual respect between these two great nations, now that their destinies happily rest with themselves, and are no longer in the hands of arbitrary rulers, there is no agency so potent or so direct as a thorough knowledge of each other's language, and of that national idiosyncrasy which is chiefly manifested in the popular dialect. I therefore consider the supply of any contribution to such knowledge as worthy of one's best efforts. And here I would remark that I have frequently noticed on either side of the Channel that an acquaintance, however imperfect, with the language of the people "over the way" was uniformly accompanied by a tendency to judge fairly and kindly of that people.

Many of the barriers that formerly divided the

nations of this world have long ago been partly, when not altogether, removed, so as to facilitate an intercourse profitable to all. But the ignorance of one another's language still remains a most serious obstacle to a full and free intercourse. It therefore behoves all friends of peace and progress to do their best to diminish such ignorance—every man according to his means. It is time, indeed, considering the material improvements accomplished on all sides, that the pernicious effects of the Tower of Babel were less keenly felt. This little work of mine is, so to speak, a stone which I venture to throw with my feeble hands at that historical monument of too long standing.

That the idiomatic knowledge of a living language is of paramount importance no one will deny. Indeed, it is so self-evident that there is no need for me to dwell at length on the subject. But it must be admitted, at the same time, that this idiomatic phraseology is fraught with difficulties, and that its perfect mastery can only be the reward of a long and laborious study. As long as the same thoughts are clothed in the same forms in both English and French, it is an easy matter to pass from the one to the other, by simply exchanging the corresponding terms supplied by the dictionary; but the difficulty begins the moment the plain, straight highroad common to both is left, and the two part company to deviate into different byepaths of their own, along which they are driven by their national genius farther and farther away from each other. Then it is that the difficulties begin, and that the perplexed learner requires guidance. As a matter of fact, the two languages tend more and more to assume special forms of their own—in other words, to be *idiomatic*. Certain it is that in the last century—to go no farther back—they ran in much more parallel lines, and resembled one another in their general construction much more than has been the case throughout

this nineteenth century; and I well recollect that on my first visit to England, a great many years ago, I was struck by the marked contrast between elderly people and the younger generation in the character of their respective forms of speech, by which I mean the turn of their phrases and the words they used. To my foreign eyes and ears the older school wrote and spoke a plain, straight language, thoroughly "classical," and therefore easily intelligible to an educated outsider —a language which reminded me of Hume, of Gibbon, of Johnson, and that generation; whilst, on the contrary, the younger writers and speakers affected the Saxon tongue, and aimed at a form of style more graphic, at all events more *sui generis*—shall I say more insular? A similar movement, with at least equal intensity, has taken place in France, and it is not too much to say that the English readers would naturally be more at home with such authors as Fénelon, Bernardin de St. Pierre, Montesquieu, Buffon, and Chateaubriand than with Michelet, Hugo, About, and the contributors to the *Revue des Deux Mondes*.

Now I cannot help feeling that both languages have been the gainers by this change, being thereby more lifelike and more true to their time. But this very progress has created new difficulties in the comparative study of the two languages, especially owing to the multiplicity of technical expressions that have sprung from the various new channels of human activity which continue to distinguish our age.

Such considerations point forcibly to the need of special study and of special guidance. It is a guidance of this kind that I venture to offer in the present work. If it should contribute, in ever so slight a degree, to check the ignorance I have made bold to allude to, I shall be deeply thankful. But the "modern" teachers on either side must put vigorously their shoulders to

the wheel. Let them bear kindly with an experienced veteran of their own honourable army who ventures to remind them that the modern language they undertake to teach is not like a placid, lifeless lake, confined for ever within its narrow banks, but an overflowing river, full of life, of motion, and of change. They should feel at home in both countries in point of spirit—they should feel at home in both languages in point of idiomatic knowledge. No man can teach at all what he does not know thoroughly, and no man can teach well what he does not love sincerely—a twofold truism which I am sure the great Dr. Arnold of Rugby would have cordially endorsed.

This leads me to mention a small episode of my personal experience bearing on that very point. Several years ago, a valuable French mastership became vacant in a London Public School. No less than 253 candidates of different nationalities presented themselves, and no wonder: the post was relatively excellent, the salary high, the work easy and pleasant under the model of headmasters. The letters of application and the testimonials in support formed a huge pile. The governors appealed to me for help. I was bold enough to consent at all risks to examine the titles and credentials of these 253 applicants, with a view to recommending for the governors' final choice the three whom I should consider the most eligible. I may observe here, *en passant*, that nowhere out of liberal, high-minded England could a foreigner receive so flattering a mark of confidence, in striking contrast with the *modus operandi* of the fussy, self-sufficient, autocratic Continental officials; whilst, in justice to the 250 rejected candidates, it is only fair to state that not one of them entered a protest against my verdict, and, in fact, I am yet alive to tell the tale. But I come to the main point. Among many curious samples of Franco-English composition that this laborious inspec-

tion brought to light, I was struck by the English wording of a testimonial written on behalf of a certain candidate. It was signed by a French gentleman who has lived all his life in England, and has even obtained high distinction from the French Government, presumably for his services in the propagation of the French language among English people! "I know Mr. ——," the testimonial stated, "since he lives in England" (*sic*), which, of course, was intended to translate: "Je connais M. —— depuis qu'il habite l'Angleterre,' *i.e.*, "I have known Mr. —— since he came to live in England;" but the worthy linguist naïvely declared, "I know Mr. ——, *because* he lives in England." Here we have a distinguished teacher who was sadly at fault in a simple matter of idiom. One might well tell him, "Doctor, first cure thyself." I venture to give it, as an incontrovertible axiom, that no Frenchman can teach French properly to English people, nor can an Englishman teach English successfully to French people, unless each of them knows both languages *idiomatically;* for the teaching of either language must be a matter of constant comparison. While on this subject, I might also allude to that worthy English lady who one day accosted me at the Botanical Gardens with this exclamation: "Oh, M. M., mon mari vous *regarde* partout." A very comical confusion between to look for and to look at. But I think I have sufficiently proved my point, and have so far shown the necessity of special attention to the niceties of idiomatic construction.

The present little work, however, whose *raison d'être* I believe I have so far justified in the matter of idioms, deals also with proverbs.

Now, I am sure the introduction of proverbs into its pages requires no apology at my hands; they are universally popular from our Western countries to the far East, and have ever been so from the days of Solomon

and Aristotle downwards. It may be said that they stand by themselves, and so far differ from idioms, as not only are they older, but they have a more international and more cosmopolitan character, although doubtless their special wording may occasionally bear the stamp of the idiosyncrasy of a special people. Many of the greatest writers have used them freely; they are the embodiment of popular philosophy, and, on this account, the special favourites of moralists. Philosophy, it is true, may be said to have, like medicine, more drugs than remedies; and I readily concede that, for instance, Job-like resignation, under the strokes of adversity, is a matter of innate temperament rather than the result of training. But still the fact remains that the timely apposite quotation of a time-honoured maxim or popular saying is calculated to point a moral or adorn a tale. Anyhow the graphic preciseness of a proverb imparts at once force and colouring to the spoken or written language; whilst in many cases, as it has been judiciously remarked, its peculiar form or turn affords an interesting insight into the characteristic features of the nation that has originated such a proverb, or dressed it up in a fashion of its own; and, from this point of view, an intimate knowledge of our neighbours' favourite sayings paves the way to a more perfect acquaintance with their manners and tone of mind.

Nor can it be honestly contended, as some have presumed to do, that proverbs are an ungenteel form of speech; for without venturing to bring in the most sacred authors, it is enough to say that proverbs have found favour with such master-minds as Shakespeare, Cervantes, Rabelais, Montaigne, Molière, and La Fontaine. The most genial writers have certainly proved the most inclined to use them. It is true Malherbe denounces the use of proverbs as rather too familiar. But Malherbe, we know, was a stickler for

nobility of language, and we naturally find in the same school Ronsard and his friends of the Pléiade, who would, of course, shun any form of popular expression. They can boast, however, of a multitude of champions arrayed on the opposite side. From an early period our trouvères and troubadours were very partial to proverbs, as were our most serious-minded writers of the Middle Ages, moralists or chroniclers. We even find the dignified Chancellor Gerson, in the time of Charles VI., making occasional use of them. As much may be said of the graceful and amiable Duke Charles of Orleans. Villon, under Louis XI., introduced them freely in his light verses, and they fully maintained their popularity in the next century—the sixteenth—under the court poet, Clément Marot, and his imitators, until the movement got checked by Ronsard, the Pléiade, and Malherbe, who, as I just remarked, showed themselves too anxious, on the morrow of the Renaissance, for the classical dignity of the French language to admit of so popular an element as proverbs. Rabelais, however, in the first half of the sixteenth century, had frequently quoted popular sayings, and Shakespeare in his turn gave many of them the sanction of his genius, whilst Cervantes (who, by a strange coincidence, died the same day as his English rival in glory, the 23rd April 1616) also regarded proverbs with special affection. Again, Montaigne, another master-mind and most original thinker of the same period, may be mentioned as among their warm partisans. Nor have Corneille and Racine scrupled to introduce them in their famous comedies of *Le Menteur* and *Les Plaideurs.* As to La Fontaine, Molière, and Boileau, I have quoted them freely in the course of this work, and, coming near our time, I have also largely borrowed from Destouches, about whom I remember reading not long ago a statement from M. Francisque Sarcey, that from his *Glorieux* alone one

could count more than fifty lines that have become everyday proverbs. Surely the favourable verdict and practical approval of such an array of wise men and profound thinkers of all ages and nations may well outbalance the ostracism of a few pedantic reformers, and the hostility of a flippant eighteenth-century Chesterfield.

And now I must leave these little volumes to plead their own cause, and make their way into the world. Should they prove themselves useful, and tempt the public on both sides of the Channel to turn their leaves frequently over, my object in launching them will be fulfilled.

Happily for them, they have the rare good fortune of coming out under the most kind and gracious patronage of two noble representatives of an illustrious House, who do honour to the mighty Empire over whose destinies they will in due time, under the ordeals of a Divine Providence, be called upon to preside.

ALPH. MARIETTE.

Villa Mariette-Pacha,
RUEIL-PARIS, *January* 1896.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH

IDIOMS AND PROVERBS

A.

A.—*Il ne sait ni A ni B* = He is a rank ignoramus.

C'est un homme marqué à l'A * = He is a superior man, out of the common.

Renvoyer quelqu'un à l'A, B, C = To accuse some one of ignorance.

C'était à soixante ans nous mettre à l'A, B, C:
Voyez pour tout un corps quel affront c'eût été! =
[REGNARD, *Le Légataire.*]

It was tantamount to sending us back to school at 60 years of age. You may judge what an insult it would have been to the whole corporation.

N'en être qu'à l'A, B, C d'une science = To have only very elementary notions of a science.

Un arbre à fruit = A fruit-tree.

Une machine à vapeur = A steam-engine.

Un chapeau à larges bords = A hat with broad brims.

Un homme à étroits préjugés; à l'intelligence cultivée = A man with narrow prejudices; with a cultivated intellect.

L'humanité n'est pas le bœuf à courte haleine,
Qui trace à pas égaux son sillon dans la plaine,
Et revient ruminer sur un sillon pareil =
[LAMARTINE, *Harmonies.*]

The human race is not the ox with short breath,

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* *C'est un homme marqué à l'A* = An old proverbial expression, less commonly used at the present time, conveying an allusion to the coinage of French money which in the Paris mint is marked A, and is supposed to be of better metal than any other.

who with ever equal steps cleaves his furrow in the plain, and returns to ruminate over a like furrow.

Un mot à nous deux = Now, to business. Let us settle that matter between us.

C'est à vous à parler = It is your turn to speak. [To be distinguished from: *C'est à vous* DE *parler* = It is your duty to speak.]

C'est à vous d'être prudent = It behoves you to act with caution.

Vous avez encore une bonne heure à vous = You have still a full hour before you.

A l'entendre = By what he says.

De la Grèce déjà vous vous rendez l'arbitre:
Ses rois, à vous ouïr, m'ont paré d'un vain titre =
[RACINE, *Iphigénie.*]

Over Greece you sit already as an arbiter; Her kings, if we are to listen to you, have adorned me with a shallow title.

A ce que je vois = By what I see.

C'était à qui en aurait = They all wanted to have some.

C'est à qui lui fera le meilleur accueil = They all vie in welcoming him.

C'est à désespérer = It is enough to make one despair.

C'est à croire que la bêtise humaine a des profondeurs encore insondées = It would lead one to believe that human stupidity remains unfathomable.

Abattement.—*Il était dans l'abattement* = He was much depressed.

Abattre.—*Cela abattra son orgueil* = It will humble his pride.

Cela lui abattit aussitôt son caquet = That silenced him at once.

Il abat de la besogne = He gets quickly through a great deal of work.

Petite pluie abat grand vent = Little strokes fell great oaks.

Abois.—*Être aux abois* = To be at bay, to be reduced to extremity.

Mais souvent dans ce style, un rimeur aux abois
Jette là, de dépit, la flûte et le hautbois =
[BOILEAU, *Art Poétique.*]
But often, in this kind of composition, a rhymer at his wits' end throws aside in disgust the flute and the hautboy.

Abondance.—*Berryer parlait généralement d'abondance* = Berryer generally spoke extempore.

Abondance de biens ne nuit pas = Store is no sore.

*En ai-je bu de l'abondance en pension, je ne vous dis que ça !** = Didn't I drink weak wine-and-water at school, that's all!

Abonder.—*J'abonde parfaitement dans votre sens* = I share your opinion unreservedly.

Abord.—*Il est d'un abord difficile* = He is not easy of access.

D'abord ; tout d'abord ; de prime abord = At first; from the very first.

Aborder.—*Il faut aborder la question de front* = The question must be entered into boldly.

Les mêmes affaires, selon qu'elles sont bien ou mal abordées, peuvent également finir par une collision sanglante ou par un éclat de rire = The same affairs, according as they are well or badly met, may equally end by a bloody collision or a burst of laughter.

Aboutir.—*Où aboutit cette route ?* = Where does this road lead to?

Où aboutit tout ce que vous dîtes ? = What is the drift of your discourse?

Les pourparlers n'ont pas abouti = The parleys came to nothing.

Abri.—*Mettez-vous à l'abri* = Get under shelter.

Personne n'est à l'abri des coups de la fortune = No one is proof against ~~the strokes of~~ adversity.

Abstraction.—*Abstraction faite des frais préliminaires* = Putting aside the preliminary expenses.

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* *Abondance* is a technical term applied by French schoolboys to their customary beverage of wine and water, possibly intended to express the abundant proportion of water in that innocuous mixture.

Abuser.—*C'est vraiment abuser de la bonté des gens* = It is really to take advantage of people's good nature.

s'Abuser.—*Vous vous abusez* = You are mistaken.

Accommodement.—*Ils en vinrent à un accommodement* = They came to terms.

Un méchant accommodement vaut mieux que le meilleur procès = A bad arrangement is better than the best lawsuit.

s'Accommoder.—*Il s'en accommode très-bien* = It suits him very well.

—*Il faut s'accommoder aux circonstances* = One must bend to circumstances.

Accompagnement.—*Accompagnement à grand orchestre* = A full accompaniment.

Accompagner.—*Permettez-moi de vous accompagner chez vous* = Permit me to see you home.

Accord.—*J'en demeure d'accord* = I grant it.

D'un commun accord = By common consent.

D'accord, soit = Granted, be it so.

Sommes-nous d'accord = Is it a bargain?

Votre violon n'est pas d'accord = Your violin is not in tune.

Mettez, pour me jouer, vos flûtes mieux d'accord =
[MOLIÈRE, *L'Étourdi.*]

Concoct your plans together better if you want to take me in.

De tous nos défauts, celui dont nous demeurons le plus aisément d'accord, c'est la paresse =
[LA ROCHEFOUCAULD.]

Of all our faults, idleness is the one that we most readily acknowledge.

s'Accorder.—*Ils s'accordent comme chat et chien* = They lead a cat and dog life.

Accouchement.—*Hôpital des accouchements* = Lying-in hospital.

Accouchement avant terme = Premature confinement.

Accroc.—*Ils ont fait un accroc aux règlements* = They have taken liberties—they have played fast and loose—with the regulations.

Accroche-cœur.—*Un accroche-cœur* = A heart-breaker.

s'Accrocher.—*Un homme qui se noie s'accroche à tout* = A drowning man catches at a straw.

Accroire.—*Lui en fait-on accroire ?* = Don't they impose on his credulity?

Ce petit monsieur s'en fait joliment accroire = That little gentleman is dreadfully conceited.

Accueil.—*On lui fait toujours bon accueil* = He is always kindly received. He's always very welcome (there).

Acculer.—*Ils l'ont acculé à une démission forcée* = They drove him into an unwilling resignation.

Accusation.—*Il a été mis en accusation devant un tribunal spécial* = He was arraigned before a special court.

La cour a prononcé la mise en accusation = The court found a true bill.

Accusé.—*Un accusé de réception* = An acknowledgment.

Traits bien accusés, contours bien accusés = Well-marked ~~out~~ features, outlines in striking relief.

Albert Sorel est un historien qui excelle à représenter les grandes scènes d'un trait vigoureux et d'un relief accusé =

[H. MICHEL.]

Albert Sorel excels as an historian to bring out great scenes with a vigorous portraiture and a bold relief.

Accuser.—*J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre et de la pièce qui l'accompagnait* = I have the honour to acknowledge your letter and its enclosure.

s'Acharner.—*Il s'acharne à la musique* = He is mad for music. APRÈS ÇA

Ne vous acharnez pas tant = ~~Do not be so fierce.~~ Don't be so dead set on it.

Acheter.—*Si tu achètes ce dont tu n'as pas besoin, tu ne tarderas pas à vendre ce qui t'est nécessaire* = If you buy what you don't want, you may not be long to sell what you cannot do without.

Je l'ai acheté à vil prix = I bought it for a ~~mere~~ song.

Je ne veux point acheter chat en poche = I will not buy a pig in a poke.

Vous êtes-vous mis dans la tête que Léonard de Pourceaugnac soit un homme à acheter chat en poche? = [MOLIÈRE.]

Did you take it into your head that L. de Pourceaugnac was a man to buy a pig in a poke?

Achevé.—*C'est un comédien achevé* = He is a consummate actor.

C'est une beauté achevée = She is a perfect beauty.

Achoppement.—*Pierre d'achoppement* = Stumbling-block.

A-coup.—*Ce n'est ni par la violence, ni par de brusques à-coups qu'on a chance d'améliorer le monde, si mal fait qu'il puisse paraître* = [F. MAGNARD.]

It is neither by violence nor by abrupt jerks that one may perchance improve the world, let it appear ever so ill-conditioned.

Acquis.—*Un point acquis à la discussion* = A point so far settled, out of dispute.

Ce fait est acquis à l'histoire = That fact is acknowledged by all historians.

Bien mal acquis ne profite jamais = Ill-gotten goods never thrive.

Acquit.—*Par manière d'acquit* = For form's sake.

Pour l'acquit de ma conscience = For the satisfaction of my conscience.

Pour acquit = Paid.

Acte.—*Je prends acte de votre promesse* = I take note of your promise.

Nos innombrables fonctionnaires se contentent trop souvent de faire acte de présence à leurs bureaux = Our innumerable officials are too often satisfied with merely putting in an appearance at their offices.

Expédition d'un acte = Copy of a deed.

Acte de baptême, de mariage = An official certificate of baptism, of marriage.

Actif.—*Il a d'excellents états de service à son actif* = He holds to his credit the record of an honourable career. He holds excellent certificates.

Actuel.—*Le gouvernement actuel* = The present [*not* actual] government.

Actuellement.—*Il est actuellement en voyage* = He is travelling just now [not actually].

Addition.—*Garçon, l'addition !* = Waiter, the bill.

Adieu.*—*Sans adieu, jusqu'au revoir* = I shall soon see you again.

Il faut que j'aille leur faire mes adieux = I must go and take my leave of them.

Adieu mes nourrissons, si vous les rencontrez = If you come across my babes, it is all over with them.

Adieu paniers, vendanges sont faites = It is all over, all is gone to wreck.

Admirer.—*Je vous admire* = I like your coolness.

Adresse.—*Le paquet est à votre adresse* = The parcel is addressed to you.

Ce trait était à votre adresse = The shaft—or, hint—was intended for you.

Tour d'adresse = Legerdemain.

s'Adresser.—*Vous vous adressez mal* = You mistake your man.

Advenir.—*Advienne que pourra* = Happen what may.

Affaire.—*Il est bien dans ses affaires* = He is in good circumstances.

Il fait de très bonnes affaires = He is doing very well.

Les affaires ne vont pas, ne marchent pas = Trade is dull.

Il est dans les affaires = He is in business.

Il fait des affaires d'or = He is making a fortune.

Au point où en sont les affaires = As matters stand.

Ce n'est pas une affaire = It is a very simple matter.

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* *Adieu* = A cordial, felicitous word, which was formerly written *A Dieu!* and stands for: "Je vous recommande à Dieu!" It generally, however, breathes a spirit of sadness.

> "Adieu ! mot qu'une larme humecte sur la lèvre ;
> Mot qui finit la joie et qui tranche l'amour ;
> Mot par qui le départ de délices nous sèvre ;
> Mot que l'éternité doit effacer un jour ! "
>
> LAMARTINE.

C'est mon affaire. J'en fais mon affaire = Leave that to me.

A demain les affaires sérieuses * = Let us enjoy ourselves to-day; business to-morrow.

J'ai votre affaire = I have the very thing for you.

Cela ne fait pas mon affaire = That does not suit me; that's not what I want.

Il est homme à se tirer d'affaire = He is one to get on, to succeed.

Le médecin espère qu'il se tirera d'affaire = The doctor hopes he will pull through.

Voilà une affaire faite, bâclée = That is something done.

Vous avez fait là une belle affaire! = You have got into a sad scrape.

Mêlez-vous de vos affaires = Attend to your own business.

Il a son affaire = He is in for it.

Son affaire est claire = It is all over with him. He is done for.

Il l'a menacé de lui faire son affaire = He threatened "to do" for him.

Cela fera-t-il votre affaire? = Will this do for you?

Vous vous attirerez une mauvaise affaire = You will get into trouble.

La belle affaire! = What of that? Is that all?

Qui est-ce qui a encore touché à mes affaires? = Who has again been meddling with my things?

Les chefs veulent surtout que leurs subordonnés évitent les affaires = The chiefs are above all anxious that their subordinates should keep clear of scrapes.

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* *A demain les affaires sérieuses* = This is an historical saying that has become proverbial. We read in Plutarch that Pelopidas and some of his friends having laid a plot (379 B.C.) to rid their native Thebes of the tyranny of Archias and Leontiades, unexpectedly rushed into that city while the hated "polemarchs" were indulging in a feast, and easily murdered them. Archias had been warned of the impending danger by an Athenian friend who sent him a special message in due time. But being already heavy with wine, he would not even unfold the letter, and throwing it under his pillow: *Let us put off business till to-morrow*, he exclaimed. His fate was soon sealed, and Plutarch tells us the phrase became frequently quoted among the Greeks.

Ce scandale sera l'affaire de huit jours = This scandal will just last a week.

Il aura affaire à plus fort que lui = He will find his master, more than his match.

Mais le moindre grain de mil
Serait bien mieux mon affaire =
[LA FONTAINE.]

But the least grain of millet would answer my purpose much better.

Voulez-vous qu' avec lui je me fasse une affaire? =
[MOLIÈRE.]

Would you have me quarrel with him?

C'est convenu, réglé. Donc, point d'affaire =
[COPPÉE.]

It is agreed, settled. And so, no more about it.

Afficher.—*Afficher du mépris pour . . .* = To make an ostentatious show of contempt for . . . to advertise one contempt for

Il a tort d'afficher ainsi ses opinions [or, *de s'afficher ainsi*] = He is wrong to make such a show of his opinions. To advertise his opinions

Défense d'afficher = ~~Stick~~ Post no bills.

Affront.*—~~*Avaler, boire,*~~ *essuyer un affront* = To pocket an ~~affront.~~ insult

Il fait affront à sa famille = He is a disgrace to his family.

Sa mémoire lui a fait un affront = His memory betrayed him.

Affût.—*Que de gens sans cesse à l'affût de la nouveauté!* = How many people are incessantly on the look-out for anything new!

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* *Essuyer un affront.*—Apropos of the oddities of the French language, I have met with this question: "Pourquoi *essuie-t-on* un affront, et *lave-t-on* une injure?" I may add: Why do we say indifferently, and in a like spirit of praise, of a departed man, that he *leaves behind him*, or that he *carries away* universal regrets? "Il laisse des regrets universels," or "Il emporte des regrets universels." Surely, what is "left behind" cannot be said at the same time to be "carried away."

To the same class of anomalies belongs the apparent inconsistency of "Chercher à *prendre* le gibier que l'on *chasse*."

Age.—*Bas âge* = Infancy.
Un homme entre deux âges = A middle-aged man.
La fleur de l'âge = The prime of life.
Tirer sur l'âge = To be elderly.
Il est d'âge à [or, *il est en âge de*] *savoir se conduire* = He is of an age to know how to behave.
Le Moyen-Age = The Middle Ages.

Agir.—*Ils en ont très mal agi avec moi* = They used me very ill.

s'Agir.—*De quoi s'agit-il?* = What is the matter?
Ce n'est pas de cela qu'il s'agit = That is not the question.
Il s'agit d'une forte somme = A large sum of money is at stake. A lot of money is involved
Il s'agit de ne pas avoir peur = The thing is not to be frightened.

Agonie.—*Elle est à l'agonie* = She is on the point of death.

Agréable.—*Et je vous supplierai d'avoir pour agréable*
Que je me fasse un peu grâce sur votre arrêt,
Et ne me pende pas pour cela, s'il vous plaît =
[MOLIÈRE, *Le Misanthrope.*]

And I shall beg of you not to take it amiss that I should deal leniently with myself regarding your sentence, and should not hang myself for that, if you please.

Agréments.—*Les arts d'agréments se paient à part* = Accomplishments are charged for separately.

Aguets.—*Nous étions aux aguets* = We were on the look-out.

Aider.—*Aide-toi, le ciel t'aidera* =
[LA FONTAINE.]

Aydez-vous seulement, et Dieu vous aydera =
[RÉGNIER.]

Just help yourself, and God will help you.

Aigre.—*La discussion menaçait de tourner à l'aigre* = The discussion threatened to become bitter.

Aiguille.—*De fil en aiguille* = From one talk to another.
Disputer sur la pointe d'une aiguille = To quarrel about a pin, about a straw.

Aile.—*Ils ne battent plus que d'une aile* = They are almost done for, ruined.
Il en a dans l'aile = He is caught.
Il en tirera pied ou aile = He will get a snack out of it.
Il peut maintenant voler de ses propres ailes = He can now shift for himself.

Aimer.—*Qui aime bien châtie bien* = Spare the rod and spoil the child.
Celui qui bien faict à quelqu'un l'aime mieux qu'il n'en est aimé =

[MONTAIGNE.]

He who does good to some one feels more love for him than he gets back.

Quand on n'a pas ce que l'on aime, il faut aimer ce que l'on a = When we have not what we like, we must like what we have.
Aimez qu'on vous conseille, et non pas qu'on vous loue =

[BOILEAU.]

Prefer advice to praise.

Air.—*Elle a l'air aimable* = She looks amiable.
Il ne fait pas d'air aujourd'hui = It is very close to-day.
Un discours en l'air = Idle talk.
Vous êtes dans un courant d'air = You are in a draught.
Il a cinquante ans, mais il n'en a pas l'air = He is fifty, but he does not look it.
On a l'âge qu'on a l'air d'avoir = One is just the age one looks.
Cela en a tout l'air = It looks uncommonly like it.
Ils ont tous un air de famille = There is a family likeness in them all.
Il a un faux air de son cousin = He has a slight resemblance to his cousin.
La maison était tout en l'air = The house was in confusion.
D'un air entendu = With a knowing look.

Aise.—*Vous en parlez bien à votre aise* = It is easy for you to speak so; it is all very well for you to say so.
Nos administrations publiques en prennent vraiment trop à leur aise avec les contribuables qui les paient = Our

Civil Service people are really too much off-hand with the tax-payers who support them.

Ils ne sont pas riches, mais ils sont à leur aise = They are not rich, but they are in easy circumstances.

Vous fumerez à votre aise, quand vous serez dans la rue = You will smoke as much as you please when you are in the street.

Allemand.—*Une querelle d'Allemand** = A quarrel without rhyme or reason.

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* *Une querelle d'Allemand.* The students of German universities are notoriously quarrelsome, and there is a more or less well-grounded impression that the German people are apt to be noisy, and perhaps bellicose in their cups. But for aught I have seen in Germany, they are not worse than other nations, and the only fault I for one would presume to find with them on the score of temper is that they are rather apt to misunderstand a joke, and to take offence at imaginary wrongs. For the rest, they certainly are a very great and honourable community, and they have nobly played their part in the cause of civilisation. I am fully satisfied that the expression *Une querelle d'Allemand* is an unmerited aspersion, and, as a matter of fact, I side with those who see a mere corruption of language in this popular phrase, the origin of which is plausibly accounted for as follows:—During the 13th and 14th centuries, there lived in the Dauphiny, about the mountainous tract that extends between the rivers Drac and Isère, a very powerful and extensive family of the name of Alleman. These mighty and closely-united feudal lords formed among themselves a very strong confederacy, and woe to any one who was rash enough to provoke and molest any member of the clan. At the call of the offended party, the whole force of the Alleman family, with their numerous retainers, would be brought to bear against the assailant, and from the ardour with which they resented and avenged any family wrong, no matter how trifling the subject, there arose the expression *Une querelle d'Alleman*—an expression as foreign in its spelling as, I trust, in its *raison d'être*, to our neighbours across the Rhine.

Apropos of this, I would add that international amenities of the kind are but too common. Thus, our English friends are not above using the phrase, "To take French leave," by way of ascribing to us the free and easy practice of doing things without asking the requisite permission—a practice which I must say I have never noticed as a feature of the French national character. On the other hand, in the way of retaliation, "Partir à l'anglaise," *i.e.*, to sneak out of the way, is an expression rather frequently met with in France. Many other samples of such international charity and sense of justice might easily be adduced. Indeed, even between the fellow-subjects of the same commonwealth, as, for instance, between the English on one side and the Scotch or Irish on the other, there is no lack of unamiable innuendoes which have

Aller.—*Comment allez-vous ?* = How are you ?
Je ne vais pas du tout = I am not at all well.
Allons ! allons ! du courage ! = Come, come, be brave.
Tant va la cruche à l'eau qu'à la fin elle se casse = The pitcher goes so often to the well that it gets broken at last. It is a good horse that never stumbles.
Allons donc ! vous plaisantez = Nonsense ! you are joking.
Allons ! qu'on s'apprête = Now, let every one get ready.
Mais allez donc ! = Do go on.
Je ne ferai qu'aller et venir = I shall be back presently.
Comme vous y allez ! = You go on at a fine rate.
S'il allait venir ! = If he chanced to come !
Vous n'y allez pas de main morte = You hit pretty hard. You don't do things by halves.
Je n'y vais pas par quatre chemins = I don't mince matters.
Le mal va grandissant = The evil keeps increasing.
L'affaire va son train = The affair is progressing.
Votre feu va-t-il bien ? = Does your fire burn well ?
Il y va de tout cœur = He is very frank and hearty.
J'irai aux renseignements = I shall make inquiries.
Je ne vais pas contre = I say nothing to the contrary.
Cela va sans dire ; cela va de soi = It is a matter of course.
Cela ne me va pas = That does not suit me.
Si cela vous va, nous partirons demain = If agreeable to you, we shall set off to-morrow.
Va pour demain = Let it be to-morrow.
Il y va de votre honneur = Your honour is at stake.
Ces deux tableaux vont bien ensemble = Those two pictures are a good match.
Le jaune va bien aux brunes, et le bleu aux blondes = Yellow suits the dark women, and blue the fair ones.

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left their mark on the popular language. But I think that with regard to that objectionable form of chauvinism or jingoism, the "record"—to use a familiar sporting term of the present day—must be conceded to the Spaniards, who convey their contempt for their peninsular neighbours in this emphatic, and I should think most unfounded, utterance : "Take from the Spaniard all his good qualities, and there remains a Portuguese !" After this, we may, as we say, *tirer l'échelle.*

Au pis-aller = Let the worst come to the worst.
Un billet d'aller et retour = A return ticket.
Qui va doucement va sûrement = Slow and sure.

Allonger.—*Il sait allonger la courroie* = He knows how to make small things go a long way. He knows how to make the most of his situation.

Allumer.—*Il n'est bois si vert qui ne s'allume* = [CLÉMENT MAROT.]
Where there is a will, there is a way. There is nothing like trying.

Allure.—*Ses allures ne me conviennent pas* = His ways do not suit me.
—*Les choses prennent une mauvaise allure* = Things do not look promising.

Aloi.—*C'est de bon aloi* = It is of good quality, of the right sort.

Alors.—*Alors même* = Even though.
Alors même que Paris ne serait plus le centre politique, diplomatique et administratif, il resterait Paris, c.-à-d. la ville géante, dont la puissance financière, industrielle et commerciale dépasse celle de beaucoup de nations indépendantes = Even though Paris were no longer the political, diplomatic, and administrative centre, it would remain Paris, that is to say, the giant-city, whose financial, industrial, and commercial power surpasses that of many independent nations.
Alors comme alors = All in good time. Wait to see what is to be done.

Alouette.—*Ne vous figurez pas que les alouettes vont vous tomber toutes rôties dans la bouche* = Don't imagine that larks are going to fall ready roasted into your mouth. Don't expect that a fortune will drop into your mouth.

Ambre.—*Il est fin comme l'ambre* = He is a shrewd fellow.

Ame.—*Je n'ai pas trouvé âme qui vive* = I did not find a living creature in the place.
C'est l'âme damnée du préfet = He is the prefect's tool.

Amende.—*Il a été mis à l'amende* = He got fined.

Il a dû faire amende honorable = He had to make an apology.

Amener.—*Ils ont amené aussitôt leur pavillon* = They lowered their flag at once.

Il a toujours le mauvais goût d'amener la conversation sur la politique = He has always the bad taste of introducing politics into conversation.

Ami.—*Les amis sont comme les parapluies: On ne les a jamais sous la main quand il pleut* =

[BANVILLE.]

Friends are like umbrellas: You never have them at hand in bad weather.

Amiable.—*Vente à l'amiable* = Sale by private contract.

Un arrangement à l'amiable = An amicable arrangement.

Amitié.—*Mes amitiés chez vous* = My kind regards to your people.

Il l'a pris en amitié = He took a fancy to him.

Amortissement.—*Caisse d'amortissement* = Sinking-fund office.

Amour.—*Amour! amour! quand tu nous tiens,*
On peut bien dire: Adieu, prudence! =

[LA FONTAINE, *Fables*, iv. 1.]

When love gets hold of us, one may well say: Farewell, prudence!

Amuser.—*Il a le talent d'amuser le tapis* = He has a peculiar gift of talking the time away.

Je vous réponds que je ne me suis pas amusé en route = I lost no time on the way, I can tell you.

An.—*Le jour de l'an* = New Year's day.

L'an de grâce = The year of Our Lord . . . *Anno Domini.*

Bon an, mal an = One year with another.

Service du bout de l'an = Religious service (in Roman Catholic churches) on the anniversary of a death.

Je m'en moque comme de l'an 40 = I don't care a straw about it.

Ancre.—*Jeter l'ancre ; Lever l'ancre* = To cast anchor ; To weigh anchor.

Chasser sur ses ancres = To drag the anchors.

s'Ancrer.—*Il s'est ancré dans cette maison* = He got a firm footing in that house.

Ane.—*Il y a plus d'un âne qui s'appelle Martin* = There are more Jacks than one.

Pour un point [ou, "*faute d'un point*"] *Martin perdit son âne* * = A miss is as good as a mile.

C'est le pont aux ânes = A thing easy to do. A fool knows that.

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* *Faute d'un point Martin perdit son âne.* Hereby hangs a strange tale wherein figures a Pope, with a conundrum besides. It is a warning to people who may lose much by want of attention to trifles. This truism is forced on our minds by many proverbial sayings, but the one now before us is perhaps the most direct in its wording, and the most popular to the purpose.

It takes us back to the early days of the Church. Abbot Martin, the prior of the Abbey of Azello—a place not far from Rome—who was a very hospitable man, had instructed a painter to inscribe over the entrance-gate this Latin line—

Porta, patens esto, nulli claudaris honesto.

I assume that all my readers, down to the very youngest, know Latin, but perhaps one or two might say, like Monsieur Jourdain in the *Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, "Oh! yes, I know Latin, but just do as if I didn't know it, and tell me what it means." Well, it means, "Gate, stand open, and be closed against no honest man." The painter unluckily made a mess of it, and transposed the comma to the other side of *nulli*, so that the well-meant hexameter ran thus—

Porta, patens esto nulli, claudaris honesto.

It must be admitted that Abbot Martin was singularly remiss not to have controlled the work of his unclassical painter. Now, it happened that the Pope, being out for a drive, passed that way, and noticing the inscription, was so shocked at its unchristian spirit that the moment he got back in his palace he dismissed the poor prior. Here again, I cannot help feeling that His Holiness was unduly hasty. But then, had Abbot Martin been more careful, and the Pope less hasty, we should have missed a very good story, to which the very name of Martin, and especially that of "Azello"—*i.e.*, a donkey—gives a peculiar colouring ; for there is no donkey in the case, and one has crept into the saying through a *double entente* suggested by the twofold meaning of Azello.

We are further told that Martin's successor, whilst altering the place

Conte de Peau d'âne = A child's story.

—*Nul ne sait mieux que l'âne où le bât le blesse* = Every one knows best where his shoe pinches.

L'âne de la communauté
Est toujours le plus mal bâté =

One neglects the common interest to attend to one's personal welfare.

Ce sont les armoiries de Bourges, un âne dans une chaise = An ignorant man sitting in an arm-chair.

—*Il ressemble à l'âne de Buridan* = He cannot make up his mind. [*See* BURIDAN further on.]

Ange.—*Elle en était aux anges* = She was in raptures about it.

Il écrit comme un ange * = He has a splendid handwriting.

Anglais.—*Partir à l'anglaise* = To leave abruptly. [*See* note on ALLEMAND.]

Anguille.—*Il y a quelque anguille sous roche* = There is a snake in the grass.

—*Échapper comme une anguille* = To slip away like an eel.

Écorcher une anguille par la queue = To begin a thing at the wrong end.

Vous voulez rompre l'anguille au genou = You attempt an impossibility.

Toujours pâté d'anguilles = One gets tired of repetition, even in the best things.

Il ressemble aux anguilles de Melun : il crie avant qu'on l'écorche † = He cries before he is hurt.

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of the obnoxious comma, thought it right to commemorate the event by this additional line—

Pro puncto solo caruit Martinus Azello.

So much by way of showing, as Franklin's "Poor Richard" says, that "a little neglect may breed great mischief."

* *Écrire comme un ange.* A certain Angelo Vergecio of Corfu made himself famous in the 16th century by the excellence of his Greek cursive writing. Hence this expression, which was extended by analogy, in a flattering sense, to other performers, to wit: "Jouer, parler, danser, chanter 'comme un ange.'"

† *Il ressemble aux anguilles de Melun.* It is said that a young man of Melun, called Languille, once, in the days of "Mysteries" (1402-

Annoncer.—*Je me suis fait annoncer* = I sent in my name.

—*La vendange s'annonce bien* = The vintage is very promising.

Anse.—*Cette cuisinière fait joliment danser l'anse du panier* = That cook swells her perquisites most dishonestly, makes dishonest profits out of her purchases.

Antan.—*Les neiges d'antan* = The snow of last year [literally, of the year before this].

—*Je m'en soucie comme des neiges d'antan* = I care not in the least for it.

Aplomb.—*Il ne manque pas d'aplomb* = He has plenty of assurance.

Apothicaire.—*Un mémoire d'apothicaire* = A preposterous or (extortionate) bill.

Un apothicaire sans sucre = A chemist with an incomplete stock.

Apôtre.—*Ne faites donc pas le bon apôtre* = Don't you pretend to be so very good.

Tout Picard que j'étais, j'étais un bon apôtre,
Et je faisais claquer mon fouet tout comme un autre = [Racine.]

A Picard as I was, I was a jolly good fellow, and I cracked my whip as well as any one else.

Apparence.—*Selon toute apparence* = In all probability.

Appartenir.—*A tous ceux qu'il appartiendra* [*legal*] = To all those whom it may concern.

Appel.—*Il a interjeté appel* = He has lodged an appeal.

1548), undertook to act in a public performance the part of St. Bartholomew, who, as is well known, was skinned alive. When the executioner, however, approached him with a knife in his hand, pretending to be about skinning him, Languille got frightened and started off shrieking, *a great deal too soon.* This caused the spectators to roar with laughter, and the incident would have immortalised the youth, who would have come down to us as the prototype of people who cry before they are hurt, were it not that his name was stript very soon of its identity, and his notoriety got transferred to the eels of his native city—even as early as the days of Rabelais, as evidenced by this passage (Book i. chap. xlvii.), "Bren, bren, dit Picrochole, vous semblez les anguilles de Melun : vous criez devant qu'on vous escorche ; laissez les seullement venir."

Appétit.—*L'appétit vient en mangeant* = One shoulder of mutton drives down another. The more one has, the more one wants.

Il n'est chère que d'appétit = Hunger is the best sauce.

Nous demeurâmes sur notre appétit = We stayed upon our appetite; we had not our fill.

Apprendre.—*Ça vous apprendra pour une autre fois* = It will teach you to know better in future.

Je leur apprendrai qui je suis = I will let them know who I am.

Ce qu'on apprend au ber [i.e. "*berceau*"], *on le retient jusqu'au ver* = We keep unto our grave the impressions and habits of our childhood.

Apprenti.—*Apprenti n'est pas maître* = One must not expect perfection from a beginner. You must spoil before you spin.

Appui.—*Une balustrade à hauteur d'appui* = A breast-high balustrade.

Aller à l'appui de la boule = To support an associate's argument [as one would support or push on a partner's ball at a game].

Appuyer.—*Inutile d'appuyer sur cet incident* = There is no occasion to lay a stress upon that incident.

Après.—*Eh bien! après?* = Well then! what next?

Portrait d'après nature = Picture to the life.

Elle est toujours à crier après eux = She is perpetually scolding them.

Après la pluie, vient le beau temps = The darkest cloud often has a silver lining.

Après la panse, vient la danse = After feasting, they want to amuse themselves.

Araignée.—*Elle a une araignée dans le plafond* = She has a bee in her bonnet.

Les lois ressemblent à des toiles d'araignée que les grosses mouches crèvent, tandis que les petites s'y font prendre =

Justice's net like a spider's web is wrought:
Big flies break through, but the little ones are caught.

Ses pattes d'araignée sont indéchiffrables = There is no making out his scrawling hand.

Arbre.—*Il faut plier l'arbre, pendant qu'il est jeune* = The tree should be bent while it is but a twig.

—*Ne mettez jamais le doigt entre l'arbre et l'écorce* = Never interfere between man and wife.

L'arbre ne tombe pas du premier coup = Everything takes time. Rome was not built in a day.

—*Par le temps qui court, ~~que de gens ont pour maxime de s'attacher au gros de l'arbre~~!* = In these days ~~of ours~~, ~~how many~~ people make it a rule of conduct to side ~~with the strongest~~!

Il s'est toujours tenu au gros de l'arbre = The vicar of Bray is the vicar of Bray still.

Arc.—*Il a plusieurs cordes à son arc* = He has more than one string to his bow.

Arçon.—*Il est ferme dans les arçons* = He sits firm on horseback. Figuratively: He is true to his principles.

Il a eu vite vidé les arçons = He was soon thrown out of the saddle.

Argent.—*Il faut qu'il paie argent comptant* = He must pay ready money.

—*Il ne faut pas prendre tout ce qu'il dit pour argent comptant* = You must not take everything he says for gospel.

Ils dépensent un argent fou = They spend no end of money.

C'est un bourreau d'argent = He is a spendthrift. Money burns in his pocket.

L'argent est court chez eux; ils sont à court d'argent = Money is a scarce commodity with them.

—*Il faut que je fasse rentrer cet argent* = I must call in that money.

—*Elle y va bon jeu, bon argent* = She is setting about it in earnest.

Ils sont cousus d'argent = They roll in riches.

Argent comptant porte médecine = Ready money is a remedy.

Point d'argent, point de Suisse, et ma porte était close = [RACINE, *Les Plaideurs.*]

No money, no Swiss, no paternoster; and my gate was closed.

Arme.—*Faire des armes. Tirer des armes* = To fence.
Arme blanche = Bayonet, sword.
Arme se chargeant par la gueule = Muzzle-loader.
Arme se chargeant par la culasse = Breech-loader.
Portez armes ! = Shoulder arms !
Présentez armes ! = Present arms !
Compagnon d'armes = Brother officer.
Les armes sont journalières = The fortune of war is fickle.

Armée.—*Les armées de terre et de mer* = The land and naval forces.

Arpenter.—*Il arpentait le terrain* = He was making rapid strides.

d'Arrache-pied.—*Je travaille d'arrache-pied* = I work incessantly.

s'Arracher.—*On se l'arrache* = He is extremely popular. It is in great demand.

Arracheur.—*Il ment comme un arracheur de dents* = He lies like a mountebank.

s'Arranger.—*Arrangez-vous comme vous pourrez, je ne m'en mêle plus* = Settle the matter between yourselves just as you can, I will not have anything more to do with it.
Il ne sait pas s'arranger = He does not know how to set to work.

Arrêt.—*Arrêt de mort* = Sentence of death.
Mandat d arrêt = Warrant.
Mettre aux arrêts = To place under arrest.
Lever les arrêts = To release from arrest.

Arrêter.—*Il faut arrêter des mesures énergiques* = We must resolve on energetic measures.
Le marché est arrêté = The bargain is concluded.
J'ai arrêté un domestique = I have hired a servant.
J'ai arrêté ma place = I have secured, booked, my place.

s'Arrêter.—*Ne vous arrêtez pas à ce que disent ces gens-là* = Don't pay any attention to what those people may say.

Arriver.—*Il arrivera* = He will make his way in the world.



Arrive que pourra = Come what may.

Que cela ne vous arrive plus = Don't do that again.

En arriver là, c'est bien triste = That matters should come to this is very sad.

Un malheur n'arrive jamais seul = One misfortune never comes alone.

Article.—*Il est à l'article de la mort* = He is on the point of death—*In articulo mortis.*

Elle sait faire l'article = She knows how to puff her goods.

Assaut.—*La citadelle fut emportée d'assaut* = The citadel was carried by storm.

Ils ont fait assaut de prévenances = They vied with each other in kind attentions.

s'Assembler.—*Qui se ressemble s'assemble* = Birds of a feather flock together.

Assez.—*En voilà assez* = This will do.

Suis-je assez tracassé! = Could I be more worried!

On n'en a jamais assez = Much would have more.

Assiette.*—*Je ne suis pas dans mon assiette aujourd'hui* = I feel out of sorts to-day.

L'assiette des impôts = The assessment of taxes.

C'est un pique-assiette = He is a parasite, a sponger.

Cela fait pitié de voir comme quoi presque tout le monde

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* *Assiette* has no etymological connection with *asseoir*, and, according to Diez and other high authorities, it is not primarily derived from *ad situm*, as stated by Littré, who defines the word, "Une manière de se poser, d'être posé." Like the Provençal *assieto*, arrangement, and the Italian *assetto*, adjustment, it is to be traced to a verb *assettare*, to arrange, to distribute, to place one's guests round a table; and in *l'assiette de l'impôt*, the assessment of taxes, the word is used in its literal and original sense. Subsequently it expressed situation, and then it came to designate the plate or *plateau* which marked the place assigned to each guest at a banquet. *Assettare*, which in Italian also means to carve, *i.e.* to do the honours at table, is probably derived from *assecare* (supine, *assectum*), to cut up; this etymology is supported by the old spelling *assiecte*. Let us add that this connection between *assiette* and the idea of a plateau or *tailloir* is corroborated by the analogy between the Dutch word for plate, *taljoor*, *teljoor*, and the French verb *tailler*, Low Latin *taliorium*, Italian *tagliere*.—MARIETTE'S Edition of COPPÉE'S *Le Trésor*, p. 41.

maintenant veut sa part de l'assiette au beurre = It is lamentable to see how nearly every one nowadays wants his share of the good things in the gift of the Government.

Assoupir. —*L'affaire a été assoupie* = The affair was hushed up.

Attacher.—*Attacher le grelot* = To bell the cat.

Atteindre.—*Il est atteint d'un érésipèle* = He suffers from an erysipelas.

Atteinte.—*La mort n'a pas porté atteinte à l'œuvre si heureusement commencée* = Death has not interfered with, has not compromised, the work so happily begun.

Atteler.—*Faites atteler* = Have the horses put to.

Attendre.—*Nous attendons du monde* = We expect company.

Nous les attendons = We are waiting for them.

Ne vous faites pas attendre = Don't keep people waiting.

Je l'attends là = I'll have him there.

Tout vient à point à qui sait attendre = Patience brings all things about. If you wait long enough, all things come to you

s'Attendre.—*Je ne m'attendais guère à cela* = I hardly expected that.

On peut s'attendre à tout, surtout à l'inattendu = One may expect anything in this world, especially the unexpected.

Ne t'attends qu'à toi seul, c'est un commun proverbe = Rely only upon thyself, that is a common saying.

s'Attirer.— *Vous vous attirerez des affaires, des désagréments* = You will get yourself into scrapes.

Attraper.—*Bien fin qui pourrait l'attraper* = It would take a sharp fellow to get the better of him.

Attrape! c'est bien fait = Well done! take that; serves you right.

Aubaine.—*C'est une fameuse aubaine* = It is a wonderful piece of good luck.

Audience.—*Audience à huis clos* = A sitting with closed doors [in old French, *huis*].

Aujourd'hui.*—*Aujourd'hui en huit, en quinze* = This day week, this day fortnight.

Aujourd'hui en chère, demain en bière = To-day feasting, to-morrow dying.

Aujourd'hui chevalier, demain vacher = To-day up in the world [as a knight], to-morrow down in a stable [as a cowkeeper]; to-day powerful and honoured, to-morrow poor and despised.

Aujourd'hui marié, demain marri = To-day full of joy over the wedding, to-morrow full of disappointment with the bad choice made.

Aujourd'hui en fleurs, demain en pleurs = To-day in a shower of flowers, to-morrow in a flood of tears.

Un bon aujourd'hui vaut mieux que deux demain = One to-day is worth two to-morrows.

Aune.—*Chacun sait ce qu'en vaut l'aune* = Every one knows all about it to his cost.

Il mesure les autres à son aune = He measures other people's corn by his own bushel.

Les hommes ne se mesurent pas à l'aune = One must not judge of a man's merit by his stature.

Au bout de l'aune faut (manque) le drap = Everything has an end; there are limits to things.

Il a toujours dix aunes de boyaux vides pour fêter ses bons amis = He can always raise an appetite to feast with his friends. He is ever ready to eat.

Tout du long de l'aune = Excessively.

C'est véritablement la tour de Babylone ;
Car chacun y babille, et tout le long de l'aune =
[MOLIÈRE.

It is truly the tower of Babylon; for they all chatter away there, "by the yard."

Auprès.—*Il est fort bien, dit on, auprès du ministre* = They say he is in favour with the minister.

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* *Aujourd'hui*, a compound of *au*, *jour*, *d'hui*. *Hui* alone was used formerly for to-day, *hodie*, so that *aujourd'hui* really stands for "on the day of to-day." And yet, not satisfied with the latent pleonasm, some country-folks will actually say, by way of emphasis, "au jour d'aujourd'hui." *Cejourd'hui* is used in legal phraseology.—MARIETTE's Edition of COPPÉE's *Luthier de Crémone*, p. 48.

Il a été admis auprès du roi = He was admitted into the king's presence.

Elle cherche à me nuire auprès d'eux = She seeks to injure me in their opinion.

Vos légumes et vos fruits ne sont rien auprès des nôtres = Your vegetables and your fruit are not to be compared with ours.

Aussitôt.—*Aussitôt dit, aussitôt fait* = No sooner said than done.

Autant.—*C'est toujours autant, autant de gagné* = Meanwhile, it is so much to the good.

C'est autant de perdu = It is so much lost.

Cela est fait, ou autant vaut = It is as good as done.

Autant lui en pend à l'oreille = The same fate is awaiting him.

Autant partir tout de suite = We may as well start at once.

Cela m'a coûté cent dix-huit francs, autant dire cent vingt = It cost me one hundred and eighteen francs, or, to speak in round numbers, one hundred and twenty.

Autant en emporte le vent = It is all hollow talk. Many words will not fill a bushel.

Autant de têtes, autant d'avis = Many men, many minds.

Autant de trous, autant de chevilles = A plaster for every sore.

Autant l'un est aimable, autant l'autre est maussade = One is as amiable as the other is sulky.

Je le crois d'autant moins qu'il est toujours prêt à vous donner sa parole d'honneur = I believe him all the less as he is always ready to give you his word of honour.

Il faut autant qu'on peut obliger tout le monde = [La Fontaine.]

We must oblige everybody as far as possible.

Autel.—*Le prêtre vit de l'autel* = A man must live by his business.

s'Autoriser.—*Quand on possède tant de talent et de vigueur, on se doit de prendre parti, de ne pas s'autoriser de ce qu'il y a de par le monde beaucoup de chèvres et beau-*

coup de choux pour ménager à la fois les unes et les autres = [*Le Petit Journal.*]

With so much talent and vigour, one owes it to oneself to take a determination, and not to presume on the fact that there are many goats and many cabbages about the world, to spare both the ones and the others. One should dare to take sides.

Autorité.—*Il fait autorité en matière d'archéologie* = He is an authority in archæology.

Autour.—*Pourquoi tant tourner autour du pot?* = Why beat ~~thus~~ about the bush? this way

Autre.—*Nous autres, Anglais* = We, Englishmen.

Comme dit l'autre = As the saying is.

Je le reconnais bien là ; il n'en fait jamais d'autres = That's just like him.

C'est tout un ou tout autre = It is either this or that.

L'un dans l'autre, l'un portant l'autre = One with another. On an average.

Regarder de côté et d'autre = To look here and there.

Nous parlions de choses et d'autres = We were talking of various ~~different~~ things.

En voici bien d'une autre! = What's in the wind now?

J'en ai vu bien d'autres = I have outlived worse things than that.

Autres temps, autres mœurs = Manners change with the times.

Autre chose est être instruit; autre chose est communiquer son instruction aux autres = To be learned is one thing; to be able to impart one's learning to others is quite another thing.

Les affaires, c'est l'argent des autres ~~[ironically]~~ = [~~ALEX. DUMAS.~~]

Business is other people's money.

Le devoir, c'est le bonheur des autres = [A. BELLAIGNE.]

Duty is other people's happiness.

A d'autres = Make others believe that if you can. That won't do. Tell that to the marines.

Je vous vois venir : Vous voulez me tirer les vers du nez. A d'autres, vous ne m'y tenez pas = [DESTOUCHES.]

I see you coming : you want to pump me. That won't do ; you shall not catch me.

Avance.—*La belle avance !* = What is [or, what would be] the good of it ?

Avancer.—*Vous voilà bien avancé !* = What did you [or, what will you] gain by it ?

Ma montre retardait ; elle avance maintenant = My watch was slow ; now it is fast.

Avant.—*La maison de campagne est bien avant dans les terres* = The country house lies far inland.

Nous étions déjà fort avant dans l'hiver = We were already far advanced into the winter.

La dernière gelée a pénétré fort avant dans la terre = The last frost got very deep into the ground.

Vous allez trop de l'avant = You go too far ahead.

Il va crânement de l'avant = He goes pluckily forward.

Avant peu = Before long.

Avec.—*Avec ça !* [familiar] = I dare say.

Avec ça, que ses menaces me font peur = Rubbish ! do you think his threats frighten me ?

Avec ça, que les autres n'en font pas autant = Just as if other people did not do the same.

Avenant.—*Le reste était à l'avenant* = The remainder was in keeping.

s'Aventurer.—*Qui ne s'aventure perd cheval et mule* = Nothing venture, nothing have.

Qui trop s'aventure n'a ni cheval, ni mule = Venture all, lose all.

Averti.—*Un bon averti en vaut deux* = Forewarned, forearmed.

Aveu.*—*Des gens sans aveu* = Vagabonds.

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* In feudal times a new vassal had to make an *avowal* by which he acknowledged having received such or such lands from the lord of the manor. This was called "Rendre un aveu." Hence the disparaging expression, *Un homme sans aveu*, which was applied to a man who had not the means of holding such property ; and in the course of time, this expression, originally purely legal, became opprobrious.

Aveugle.—*Vous criez comme un aveugle qui a perdu son bâton* = You cry like a child who misses his rattle.

Avis.—*Deux avis valent mieux qu'un* = Two heads are better than one.

Avis au lecteur = A word to the wise.

Prendre des lettres d'avis = To deliberate in earnest, with all due consideration.

Il y a jour d'avis = There is no hurry.

Avis au public = A notice to the public.

J'ai reçu avis dans ce sens = I got an intimation to that effect.

Sauf meilleur avis = Unless something better be suggested.

Sauf avis contraire = Unless I hear to the contrary.

M'est avis que nous le reverrons = I rather think we shall see him again.

*Ils se sont rangés à l'avis du président** = They all sided with the chairman.

Aviser.—*Nous aviserons* = We shall think the matter over.

s'Aviser.—*On ne s'avise pas de tout* = One does not think of everything.

De quoi vous avisez-vous? = How dare you? How do you presume to do such a thing?

Qu'il ne s'en avise pas! = He had better not.

De tout s'avise à qui pain faut [*manque*] = Necessity is the mother of industry.

Avoir.—*J'ai faim; j'ai soif; j'ai chaud; j'ai froid; elle a raison; vous avez tort; ils ont peur; n'ont-ils pas honte?* = I am hungry; I am thirsty; I am hot; I am cold; she is right; you are wrong; they are afraid; are they not ashamed?

J'ai chaud aux mains, mais j'ai froid aux pieds = My hands are warm, but my feet are cold.

J'ai peine à croire cela = I can hardly believe that.

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* *Se ranger à l'avis de quelqu'un* is a phrase borrowed from the Romans, *In alicujus sententiam descendere*, which conveyed the fact of quitting one's place in a council chamber to go and sit by the side of a colleague who had just made a motion, or expressed an opinion, that tallied with one's views.

Ayez en bien soin = Take great care of it.

J'en avais bien besoin et bien envie = I wanted it badly, and wished for it very much.

Qu'y a-t-il? Qu'avez-vous? = What is the matter? What ails you?

A qui en avez-vous? = Whom do you mean?

Il y en a qui le disent = There are some folks who say so.

Ils ont de quoi [elliptically, *de quoi vivre*] = They are well off.

Rabelais n'avait plus de quoi payer son voyage = Rabelais had no money left to pay his travelling expenses.

Il y a certainement de quoi se tourmenter = There certainly is good ground for uneasiness.

Il y a de cela trois jours = That is three days ago.

J'aurai beau lui parler, il n'écoute personne = It will be of no use my talking to him, he will not listen to anybody.

Et vous avez beau dire,
Dès ce soir on vous fera frire =
[LA FONTAINE.]

And in spite of your fine talk, you shall be fried this very evening.

J'en ai tout au plus pour une demi-heure = It will take me half-an-hour at most.

N'allez pas chez lui: il n'aurait qu'à vous mettre dehors = Don't go to his house: he might turn you out.

Il n'est rien tel que d'en avoir = Money is the thing to secure respect.

Je vous remercie—Il n'y a pas de quoi = I thank you—Don't name it.

Notre avoir est doublement réduit par la dépréciation de toutes les valeurs d'une part, et l'augmentation des taxes, de l'autre = Our property [or, income] is doubly reduced by the depreciation of all stocks and securities on the one hand, and the increase of taxes on the other.

Sa beauté constitue tout son avoir = Her beauty is all she has.

Doit et avoir = Debit and credit.

Compte par doit et avoir = Account by Dr. and Cr.

Veuillez porter ces diverses sommes à mon avoir = Please to credit my account with those divers sums.

Avril.—*Avril pluvieux, mai gai et venteux*
Annoncent an fécond et même gracieux =

A rainy April, and a lively, windy May, foretell a fertile and even generous year.

Mars gris, avril pluvieux et mai venteux
Font l'an fertile et plantureux =

A grey March, a rainy April, and a windy May, bring about a year fertile and fat.

Avril froid pain et vin donne =

A cold April gives bread and wine.

Avril et mai de l'année
Font tout seuls la destinée =

April and May settle by themselves the lot of the year.

Gelée d'avril ou de mai
Misère nous prédit au vrai =

A frost in April or May foretells misery to a certainty.

Quand il tonne en avril,
Apprête ton baril =

When it thunders in April, get your barrel ready.

En avril s'il tonne,
C'est nouvelle bonne =

If it thunders in April, it is good news.

On lui a donné un poisson d'avril = They made an April fool of him.

B.

B.*—*Être marqué au B* = To bear a fatal stigma.

Bigle, borgne, bossu, boîteux,
Ne t'y fie si tu ne veux =

Squint-eyed, one-eyed, hunch-backed, lame—don't trust any of them, if you don't wish (to be taken in).

* *Être marqué au B.* An old-fashioned expression applied to people who may happen to be qualified by a disparaging epithet beginning with the letter B: *bancal*, bandy-legged; *bigle*, squint-eyed; *boîteux*, lame; *borgne*, one-eyed; *bossu*, hunch-backed, &c.

Bâcler.—*L'affaire a été vite bâclée* = The affair got soon polished off.

Badiner.—*On ne badine pas avec l'Amour* = [A. DE MUSSET.]
Love is not to be trifled with.

Bagage.—*Il a dû plier bagage* = He had to pack up and be off.

Bague.—*Votre poste vous laisse du loisir: c'est une bague au doigt* = Your post allows you plenty of leisure: it is a sinecure.

Baguette.—*Ils mènent leurs gens à la baguette* = They rule their people with a rod of iron.

Bailler.—*Vous nous la baillez belle!* = A pretty story you are telling us!

Baissé.—*Il écoutait tête baissée* = He was listening with a modest air, humbly.

Il s'élança sur l'ennemi tête baissée = He rushed at the foe headlong, boldly.

Il a donné tête baissée dans le piège = He ran headlong into the trap.

Baisser.—*Baisser l'oreille* = To look discouraged.

Elle baisse beaucoup = She is getting much weaker.

Quand tu me verras baisser, ne manque pas de m'en avertir = [*Gil Blas.*]
When you perceive that my genius flags, don't fail to warn me.

Ma vue baisse = My sight is getting weak.

Cette nouvelle a fait baisser les fonds = That piece of news brought down the stocks and shares.

se Baisser.—*On dirait à l'entendre qu'il n'y a qu'à se baisser et en prendre* = He is a conceited fellow who would fain have us believe that he can obtain anything he chooses to ask.

Balai.—*Il n'est rien tel que balai neuf* = New brooms sweep clean.

Il m'a bien servi d'abord: il faisait balai neuf = He served me well at first, with the proverbial efficiency of a new broom.

Rôtir le balai = To lead a disorderly life.

Balance.—*Et le ciel qui pour moi fit pencher la balance*
Dans ce temps-là, sans doute, agissait sur son cœur =
[RACINE, *Esther*.]

And Heaven, which turned the scale in my favour, was doubtless, at the time, acting on his heart.

Balle.—*Il faut saisir la balle au bond* = One must make the most of the opportunity.

Ils se renvoient la balle = They ~~throw the~~ blame ~~on each~~ other.

Toutes les allusions ont porté, tous les mots ont fait [redacted] = [~~A. CLAVEAU.~~]

Every allusion carried straight, every word hit the mark.

Balle perdue = Spent ball.

Ballon.—*Ballon d'essai* = A pilot balloon. A feeler.

Ban.—*Le grand poète se mit au ban de la société anglaise* = The great poet got himself outlawed by English society.

Ils ont fait appel au ban et à l'arrière-ban [redacted] = They appealed to the rank and file [redacted]

Le prince révolté fut mis au ban de l'Empire = The rebel prince was put under the ban of the Empire.

Une dispense de bans = A marriage license.

Banc.—*Un banc de corail* = A coral reef.

Un banc de harengs = A shoal of herrings.

Un banc d'huîtres = A bed of oysters.

J'étais encore sur les bancs = I was still at school.

Bande.—*Une bande de papier* = A slip of paper.

Une bande de voleurs = A gang of thieves.

Bande de billard = The cushion of a billiard table.

Ils se plaisent à faire bande à part = ~~They delight in standing apart, and differing from all others.~~ They like to be different.

Bandeau.—*Il avait un bandeau sur les yeux* = He was blindfolded.

Banque.—*Il prétend faire sauter la banque* = He means to break the bank.

Banqueroute.—*Il a fait banqueroute à l'honneur* = He has forfeited his honour.

Banquette.—*Les pauvres acteurs ont joué devant les banquettes* = The poor actors played to empty benches.

Baptême.—*Nom de baptême* = Christian name.

Extrait de baptême = Certificate of baptism.

Barbe.—*Il riait dans sa barbe* = He was laughing in his sleeve.

Je le lui ai dit à sa barbe = I told him so to his face.

Il faut que je me fasse la barbe = I must shave.

Je n'ai pas voulu qu'il me fît la barbe = I did not wish to be outdone by him.

Barbier.—*Un barbier rase l'autre* = Claw me, claw thee.

Barque.—*Il conduit adroitement sa barque* = He manages his affairs very well.

C'est elle qui conduit la barque = She it is who manages the concern.

Barre.—*C'est de l'or en barre* = It is as good as ready money.

Je ne ferai que toucher barres = I shall not stop at the place.

J'ai barres sur lui = I have an advantage over him.

Je lui tiendrai bonne barre = I shall resist him stoutly.

Bas.*—*Il est parti l'oreille basse* = He went away crestfallen.

Il traite son monde de haut en bas = He has a contemptuous way of addressing people.

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* *Bas.* Low Latin *bassus;* whence *bassesse*, baseness; *basse* (music), bass; *bas*, stocking, an abbreviation of *bas-de-chausses*, as opposed to *haut-de-chausses.*

It is interesting to note the difference in the relative positions of the adjective *bas* towards the noun to which it is attached. Thus we say: *Marcher l'oreille basse, tête basse; faire main basse*, to take possession of; *parler à voix basse; une messe basse*, a low mass (not chanted); *maison basse; âme basse, sentiments bas; terme bas; plaisanterie basse; avoir la vue basse*, to be short-sighted; *la chambre basse*, the House of Commons, &c. On the other hand, the adjective comes first in the following: *Ce bas monde*, this lower world; *basses terres*, low lands; *le bas bout de la table*, the lower end of the table; *basse mer*, low tide; *le Bas-Empire*, the Lower Empire; *la basse latinité*, the low Latin of the Lower Empire and the Middle Ages; *la basse classe, le bas peuple; les basses cartes*, the small cards; *vendre à bas prix; être en bas âge*, to be an infant, &c.—[MARIETTE's Edition of COPPÉE's *Le Trésor*, p. 39.]

Ils firent main basse sur tout = They got hold of everything.

Ils ont mis bas les armes = They surrendered to the enemy.

A bas le tyran! = Down with the tyrant!

Chapeau bas! chapeau bas!
Gloire au marquis de Carabas! =

[BÉRANGER.]

Hats off! hats off! Glory to the Marquis of Carabas!

Il y a des hauts et des bas dans la vie = There are ups and downs in life.

Il est bien bas percé = Things are very low with him. He is hard up.

Le bonheur ne se trouve nulle part ici-bas = Happiness is nowhere to be found here below.

Bas-bleu.*—*Cette demoiselle est un vrai bas-bleu* = This young lady is a regular blue-stocking.

Bât.—*Chacun sait où le bât le blesse* = Every one knows best where his shoe pinches; every one knows the weight of his own burden.

Bataille.—*Bataille rangée* = Pitched battle.

C'est là son grand cheval de bataille = That is his main argument.

Bateau.—
Votre serviteur Gille . . .
Arrive en trois bateaux, exprès pour vous parler.

[LA FONTAINE.]

Your servant Gille is coming in great state on purpose to speak to you.

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* *Bas-bleu* is a nickname commonly given to ladies of exclusively intellectual tastes and pursuits, who are also ungallantly called "strong-minded females." The word *bas-bleu* originates from England, being a literal rendering of *blue stocking*, an expression that dates from Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1690–1760). This celebrated lady is commonly credited with its first introduction into the English language, whether she really said, in allusion to a custom she had found at Venice, that any distinguished visitor was welcome to attend her learned *réunions* even in *blue stockings*—as worn in a certain Venetian circle—or whether the name came, as related by the late Professor Philarète Chasles, a great French authority in all English literary matters, from her being once denounced by Alexander Pope (whom she had cruelly snubbed), as wearing *blue stockings*.

Je me suis vite aperçu qu'il m'avait monté un bateau = I soon perceived that he [redacted] told me a story.

Bâton.—*Je travaille à bâtons rompus* = I work by fits and starts.

Il met toujours des bâtons dans les roues = He is always raising difficulties, always putting a spoke in the wheel.

[redacted] *du bâton* = Perquisites, illicit profits out of an office or a situation.

Bâtonnier.*—*Il est bâtonnier de l'ordre des avocats* = He is the president of the Order of Barristers.

Battant.—*Porte à deux battants* = Folding-doors.

Tout battant neuf = Spick and span new.

Il les mène tambour battant = He carries it with a high hand over them.

Ils sont partis par une pluie battante = They went away in a pelting rain.

Battre.— *Venez au fait sans battre la campagne* = Come to the point without beating about the bush.

Voici trois ans qu'il bat le pavé = He has been loafing about this last three years.

Les cartes sont-elles battues ? = Are the cards shuffled ?

Ils ne battent plus que d'une aile = They are almost done for.

Ils ont été battus à pleine couture = They were thoroughly beaten.

La fièvre typhoïde bat son plein = The typhoid fever is raging.

Il faut battre le fer pendant qu'il est chaud = We must strike the iron while it is hot; pursue a thing well begun.

On a battu le rappel de tous ceux sur lesquels on croyait pouvoir compter = They looked up all those whom they thought they could rely upon.

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* *Bâtonnier de l'ordre des avocats* is the title still worn by the elected head of that most conservative fraternity, the Order of Advocates. The name is derived from the staff of the banner of St. Nicholas, the patron-saint of the members of the Bar, which the president of the Order was wont to carry in all processions and ceremonies.

On peut dire avec trop de raison qu'en fait de colonies, nous autres Français nous battons les buissons, pour laisser prendre à d'autres les oiseaux = It may be said with too much reason that in the matter of colonies, we French take all the trouble and make all the sacrifices for the benefit of others.

Ils me battent froid = They give me the cold shoulder.

Le cœur me battit très-fort = My heart went pit-a-pat.

se Battre.—*Ils se battent les flancs pour dire ou faire du nouveau* = They strive desperately to say or do something new.

Il dit qu'il s'en bat l'œil [familiar] = He says he cares not a straw for it.

Battu.—*J'en ai les oreilles battues et rebattues* = I have heard that story over and over again.

Vous avez les yeux battus = You look tired about the eyes.

Autant vaut bien battu que mal battu = Over boots, over shoes. In for a penny, in for a pound.

Baume.—*Je n'ai point foi en son baume* = I have no confidence in his promises.

Bavettes.—*Elles taillent des bavettes* = They gossip.

Beau.—*Tout beau, n'allez pas si vite* = Gently, don't go so fast.

Au beau milieu = In the very middle.

Vous voilà dans de beaux draps ! = Here you are in a fine mess !

Elle voit tout en beau = She sees everything on the bright side.

Le temps se met au beau = The weather is clearing up.

Le baromètre est au beau fixe = The barometer is at set fair.

La belle plume fait le bel oiseau = Fine feathers make fine birds.

Mon petit chien fait joliment le beau = My little dog has a very pretty way of begging.

Le beau monde = The fashionable world.

Chaque oiseau trouve son nid beau = Every one thinks his own geese are swans.

Il fera beau quand ils me reverront = It [redacted]ill be a long time before they see me again.

Un bel esprit = A wit.

La propriété a été vendue à beaux deniers comptants = The property was sold for hard cash.

A beau jeu, beau retour = One good turn deserves another.

C'est là le beau de l'affaire = That is the beauty of the thing; the best of the joke.

Tout cela est bel et bon; mais je n'en crois rien = All that is very fine, but I don't believe a word of it.

Nos voyageurs ont dû coucher à la belle étoile = Our travellers were compelled to sleep in the open air.

Il en fait de belles = He behaves nicely, he is going on at a nice rate.

J'en entends de belles, il m'en revient de belles, sur votre compte = I hear fine tales of you, nice doings of yours.

Elle l'a échappé belle = She had a narrow escape.

Il recommencera de plus belle = He [redacted]ill be at it again, worse than ever.

Vous nous la donnez belle = You are imposing on us.

Il mourut de sa belle mort = He died a natural death.

J'ai beau dire = It is of no use for me to speak.

Ces deux chères amies se déchirent à belles dents = Those two dear friends tear each other to pieces.

Nous allons maintenant jouer la belle = We are now going to play the odd game, to play for the conqueror.

La belle demande! = Why, how can you ask such a question?

Bec.—*Je veux que monsieur vous montre votre bec jaune* * = I want the gentleman to show you that you are a silly goose.

Un blanc-bec = ~~A beardless youth~~; a greenhorn.

Un bec de lièvre = A hare-lip.

Bec de gaz = Gas-burner.

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* *Bec jaune*, implying inexperience and stupidity, is an allusion to young birds whose beaks are generally yellow, and who, in hawking phraseology, are called *des niais*.

Bec de plume = Nib of a pen.
Bec d'une aiguière = Lip of a ewer.
Bec de clarinette = Mouthpiece of a clarinet.
Il nous a tenus long-temps le bec dans l'eau = He kept us at bay, in suspense, for a long while.
Sachez qu'elle a bec et ongles = Let me tell you that she knows how to defend herself.
Elle a le bec assez bien affilé = She has rather a sharp tongue.
*Je ne prétends pas qu'on me fasse passer la plume par le bec** = [MOLIÈRE.]
I do not intend to be made a fool of.

Bécasse.—*C'est une bécasse* = She is a goose.

Bénit.—*C'est pain bénit que de faire coffrer un pareil gredin* = It is a satisfaction to get such a scoundrel locked up.
J'ai bien assez de son eau bénite de cour = I have quite enough of his promises.

Berceau.—*Il faut étouffer le monstre au berceau* = The monster must be stifled at its birth.

Bercer.—*Je suis bercé de cette histoire* = I have heard that story from my cradle.
Il nous berce de sornettes = He amuses us, he puts us off with frivolous tales.

Berlue.—*Je n'ai cependant pas la berlue* = And yet I am not blind.

Besogne.—*Vous nous avez taillé une jolie besogne* = You have given us a deal of trouble.

Besoin.—*On connait le véritable ami dans le besoin* = A friend in need is a friend indeed.
Qu'est-il besoin . . . ? = What need is there . . . ?
Au besoin = If need be, if need were.

Bête.—*Morte la bête, mort le venin* = Dead dogs cannot bite.

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* To prevent goslings from getting through hedges into the enclosures beyond, a feather is passed through the two apertures in the upper part of their beak. Hence the proverb: *Faire passer la plume par le bec.* Very often, a stick is fastened to the bird's neck for the same purpose.

Il est remonté sur sa bête = He has got on his legs again.
C'est une bête brute = He is a brute.
C'est une bonne bête = He is a good-natured simpleton.
Quand Jean bête est mort, il a laissé bien des héritiers = When John the idiot died, he left plenty of posterity behind him.
Allons! ne faites donc pas la bête = Come, don't pretend not to know what I mean.
Pas si bête! = Not so foolish; I know better.
Qui se fait bête, le loup le mange = Confiding people are sure to be imposed upon.
Le concierge est la bête noire du Parisien = The hall-keeper is the Parisian's special aversion.
Plus fin que lui n'est pas bête = He is no fool; It would take a clever man to do him.

Beurre.—*Les candidats promettent toujours aux électeurs plus de beurre que de pain* = Candidates always promise wonders to the electors, more than they are able or willing to perform.
J'ai trouvé mon gamin les yeux pochés au beurre noir = I found my young rascal with two black eyes.
On ne saurait manier du beurre qu'on ne s'en graisse les doigts = A man cannot touch pitch without soiling his fingers.

Biais.—*Pour réussir auprès de lui, il vous faudra le prendre de biais* = To succeed with him, you must not think of going straight to the point; you must approach him sideways.

Il est certains esprits qu'il faut prendre de biais
Et que heurtant de front vous ne gagnez jamais =
[REGNARD.]

Certain people should be approached slanting; if abruptly encountered face to face, they will never yield.

Bien.—*Tout va bien* = Everything is all right.
Tant bien que mal = So-so, anyhow, after a fashion.
C'est bien fait, vous ne l'avez pas volé = It serves you right, you richly deserve it.
C'est bien fini = It is completely done, it is all over.

On y est très bien = One is very comfortable there.

Mener une entreprise à bien = To bring an affair to a successful issue.

C'est un homme de bien = He is an honest man.

L'amitié d'un tel homme est un bien inestimable = The friendship of such a man is an invaluable boon.

Le bien public = The public welfare.

Il est fort bien de sa personne = He is very gentlemanly-looking.

Il est du dernier bien avec la famille = He is on excellent terms with the family.

Comme bien on pense = As you may well think; as a matter of course.

Si tu fais du bien, oublie-le; mais si l'on t'en fait, souviens t'en toujours = If thou doest any good, forget it; but if any good is done thee, remember it for ever.

Grand bien leur fasse! = Much good may it do them.

Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien = Leave well alone.

Tout est bien qui finit bien = All is well that ends well.

En tout bien et tout honneur = With honourable intentions.

Je vous le disais bien! = Didn't I tell you?

Vous voilà bien, vous autres hommes = That is just like you men.

Il y a bien vingt milles de Londres à St. Albans = It is full twenty miles from London to St. Albans.

Nous voilà bien maintenant! = Here is a nice state of things for us.

Cela prouve le bien fondé de mon opinion = That shows that I had good grounds for my opinion.

Ils ont quelques biens au soleil = They own some acres of land.

Bientôt.—*Cela est bientôt dit* = That is easier said than done.

Bienvenu.—*On est toujours bienvenu quand on apporte* = The bearer of presents is always welcome.

Bile.—*Il n'y a vraiment pas de quoi s'échauffer la bile* = It is really not worth being so angry about.

Mes yeux sont trop blessés, et la cour et la ville
Ne m'offrent rien qu'objets à m'échauffer la bile =
[MOLIÈRE, *Misanthrope.*]

My sight is too much offended, and both the court and the town show me nothing but what is calculated to provoke my anger.

Billet.—*Les billets de faveur sont suspendus* = The free list for the theatre is suspended.

Billets de faire part = Letter announcing a marriage, a birth, or, as is oftener the case, a death in a family.

*Le bon billet qu'a La Châtre!** = Doesn't he wish he may get it?

Blanc.—*Docteur à quatre boules blanches* = Doctor with four white balls from the examiners.

J'ai passé bien des nuits blanches = I have had many sleepless nights.

Il a gelé à blanc = There has been a white frost.

Chauffé à blanc = Heated to a white heat.

Notre pauvre pays fut saigné à blanc = Our poor country was bled ~~freely.~~ white.

Ils l'ont regardé dans le blanc des yeux = They looked at him full in the face.

Il a mangé son pain blanc le premier = He spent the better part of his income first.

Ils se sont battus à l'arme blanche = They fought with swords.

Je vous donne carte blanche = I give you full powers.

Il a mis dans le blanc = He hit the mark.

De but en blanc = Abruptly.

Rouge au soir et blanc au matin, c'est la journée du pélerin = Evening red and morning gray are two sure signs of a fine day.

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* *Ah! le bon billet qu'a La Châtre!* The Marquis de La Châtre was greatly in love with the celebrated Ninon de Lenclos (1616–1706). Being obliged to absent himself, he got her to sign a note in which she pledged herself to remain faithful to him. The fickle beauty, however, soon had another lover, and on remembering the note, "billet," she laughingly exclaimed: "Ah! le bon billet qu'a La Châtre!" This has become a proverb, and applies to any promise on which no reliance can be placed.

Blé.—*Il a mangé son blé en herbe* = He spent his income before it was due.

Bloc.—*Il faut, dit C., prendre la Révolution en bloc—A quoi je réplique: Tant pis pour la Révolution* = The Revolution, says C., must be taken in a lump.—To which I reply: So much the worse for the Revolution.

Bœuf.—*Vous mettez la charrue devant les bœufs* = You put the cart before the horse.

Bohême.—*C'est une maison de bohême* = There is no order in that house.

Boire.*—*Boire à tire-la-Rigault* = To drink to excess.

Ce n'est pas la mer à boire = It is no very hard matter.

Qui a bu boira = Drunkards never get cured. Habit is a second nature.

Il boit comme une éponge = He drinks like a fish.

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* *Boire à tire-la-Rigault.* The exact origin of this popular saying has long been a subject of controversy between the most competent philologists, some of whom spell "La Rigault," while others contend for "Larigot." The former state, on what seems to be respectable authority, that about the end of the 13th century, Archbishop Odin Rigault presented the cathedral of Rouen, in celebration of his appointment, with a large bell, a kind of Big Ben, of such proportions that the bell-ringers found it a very heavy and *thirsty* work to set it in motion. Hence the proverbial expression: To drink like one who has had a pull at La Rigault. On the other side, Ménage, and after him Littré, support the version of *Larigot*, an old kind of flute or small flageolet, very hard to manage, or *l'arigot*, a tall glass somewhat in the form of a flute—a version that would in either case so far account for the modern vulgar term *flûter*. The connection, however, between the old musical instrument or the tall flute-like glass of Ménage, and the practice of hard drinking does not seem to be precise enough, although the idea of flute tallies with the popular hint as to the want of sobriety of musicians—

"*Un bon musicien ne doit pas être sobre;*
On ne fait pas mentir un dicton. C'est très mal."
COPPÉE, *Luthier de Crémone.*

I prefer siding with those who trace the saying to Archbishop Rigault, among others with M. Génin, who, in fact, contends that the original expression was, "Boire en tire la Rigault," *i.e.*, "En homme qui tire la Rigault." Be this as it may, I will conclude this notice with the safe remark of our old friend, Sir Roger de Coverley, "There is much to be said on both sides."

La folie est faite, il faut la boire = As we have made our bed, so we may lie in it.

Je boirais la mer et ses poissons = I am very thirsty.

Il a bu le coup de l'étrier = He took a glass of wine before starting.

Donnez-leur à boire = Give them some drink.

Je ne bois qu'à ma soif = I do not drink more than I want.

Elle a bu la coupe d'amertume jusqu'à la lie = [GEORGE SAND.]

She drank the cup of bitterness to the dregs.

Le vin est ~~versé~~, il faut le boire * = There is no ~~drawing~~ back. We [or you] are in for it. ~~The wine is drawn: it must be drunk.~~

Votre papier boit = Your paper blots.

Bois.—*Il ne sait plus de quel bois faire flèche* = He no longer knows what shift to make, which way to turn.

Je sais trop de quel bois il se chauffe = I know but too well the length of his foot.

Vous verrez de quel bois nous nous chauffons, lorsqu'on s'attaque à ceux qui nous peuvent appartenir = [MOLIÈRE.]

You shall see what metal we are made of when any of our belongings are attacked.

Il ne se chauffe pas de bois vert = He knows what he is about.

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* *Le vin est versé, il faut le boire* = The worthy Archbishop Trench, whom it was my proud privilege to have as a colleague at King's and Queen's Colleges, London, in days gone by, makes the following special allusion to this proverb in his little work on *Proverbs and their Lessons*:—"At the siege of Douay, Louis the Fourteenth found himself with his suite unexpectedly under a heavy cannonade from the besieged city. I do not believe that Louis was deficient in personal courage; yet, in compliance with the entreaties of most of those around him, who urged that he should not expose so important a life, he was about, in somewhat unsoldierly and unkingly fashion, immediately to retire, when M. de Charost, drawing close to him, whispered the well-known French proverb in his ear: *The wine is drawn; it must be drunk*, 'Le vin est versé, il faut le boire.' The king remained exposed to the fire of the enemy a suitable period, and it is said ever after held in higher honour than before the counsellor who had with this word saved him from an unseemly retreat."

—— *On est volé dans cette maison comme dans un bois* = That house is a regular den [redacted]

Il n'est feu que de gros bois = Do not do things by halves. There is nothing like big logs of wood to make a good fire.

Il n'est bois si vert qui ne s'allume = The most patient folks will at last lose their temper.

Il ne faut pas mettre le doigt entre le bois et l'écorce = Never interfere between man and wife.

La faim chasse le loup du bois = Hunger will break through stone walls.

J'ai trouvé visage de bois = I found the door shut.

Tu es du bois dont on fait les économes = [LE SAGE.] You were born to be a steward.

Il est du bois dont on fait les flûtes * = He is of a pliable disposition, easily got over.

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* *Il est du bois dont on fait les flûtes* = This unflattering remark is applied to a weak-headed man who has no fixed opinion of his own, and is easily got over, by allusion to the common flexible reed with which flutes were primitively roughly made.

Apropos of this popular saying, M. Rozan reminds us of an amusing anecdote. "Dubois," as every one knows, is not an uncommon name in France, and at the time referred to, the Chamber of Deputies rejoiced in several members bearing that patronymic. One of them, I may as well remark *en passant*, was the famous Liberal Paul François Dubois (de la Loire Inférieure, as he was styled to distinguish him from his several homonyms), whom M. Paul Janet, in his contribution to the remarkable *Livre du Centenaire de l'École Normale*, lately published by Messrs. Hachette, mentions with enthusiasm as *un esprit d'une haute valeur*, *une nature originale et puissante*. A very different gentleman was another M. Dubois, the subject of this note, a thorough Conservative, devoted to the Government of the day. An opposition newspaper, that had a grudge against this champion of authority, never failed to single him out as the *M. Dubois . . . dont on fait des flûtes*. The good-natured M. Dubois long bore patiently that spiteful innuendo; but there was a limit even to his presumed want of spirit; he got tired of the unseemly joke, and appealed to a court of justice against the uncalled-for tail thus tacked on to his name. The case was clear: the scurrilous journalist was condemned to leave his victim alone. M. Dubois, however, did not long enjoy his triumph and peace of mind. His tormentor was soon at it again. Only, out of deference for the sentence of the court, he modified his assertion, and would now refer to the ministerial deputy as the *M. Dubois . . . dont on ne fait pas des flûtes*. An asterisk pointed to a footnote in which the date of the judgment to that effect was given!

Boisseau.—*Ce n'est pas la quantité des paroles qui remplit le boisseau* = Words will not fill a bushel.

Il ne faut pas mettre la lumière sous le boisseau = One must not put one's light under a bushel.

Boîte.—*Dans les petites boîtes sont les bons onguents* = Short and sweet.

Ces messieurs sont toujours si élégants que l'on dit communément qu'ils ont l'air de sortir d'une boîte = These gentlemen are always so very elegant that it is commonly said they look as if they came out of a band-box.

Nos bons domestiques d'aujourd'hui dénoncent comme une "boîte" une maison, si bien tenue qu'elle soit, où le moindre contrôle contrarie leur pratique familière du tour de bâton = Our worthy servants of the present day denounce as a "poky" place a house, no matter how well kept, where the least control stands in the way of their familiar practice of illicit profits.

Boîteux.—*Il ne faut pas clocher devant les boîteux* = One must not limp before cripples.

Paix boîteuse et mal assise * = An unsatisfactory treaty of peace (such as was concluded at St. Germain in 1570).

Bombarder.—*Il vient d'être bombardé préfet* = He has just been suddenly appointed Prefect (over the head of more deserving servants of the State).

Elle—Mme. de Maintenon—y bombarda Mme. d'Arpajon à l'étonnement de toute la cour =

[SAINT SIMON.]

She thrust Mme. d'Arpajon into the appointment, (of "Dame d'Atours") to the surprise of the whole court.

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* The negotiators of that treaty of peace concluded at St. Germain between Catherine of Medici and the Huguenots were the Seigneur de Malassise and the Baron de Gontaut-Biron, who was lame from a wound received in the wars. Hence the nickname of *Paix boîteuse et mal assise*—lame and insecure—attached to that treacherous treaty, the worthy forerunner of the infamous massacre of St. Bartholomew's day, otherwise stigmatised as "Paix mauvaise et manquée, véritable coupe-gorge."—Vide DURUY'S *Histoire de France*, vol. ii. p. 133.

Bon.—*Si bon vous semble* = If you think so.

A quoi bon? = What is, what would be, the good of it?

Voilà ce qu'il y a de bon dans l'affaire = That is the good part of the question; that's one consolation.

C'est toujours bon à prendre = Still, it is worth taking.

Veuillez trouver bon que je m'en dispense = Pray do not think it amiss that I should dispense with it.

Ils se donnent du bon temps = They take it easy.

Il faut faire bonne mine à mauvais jeu = You must put a good face on adversity.

Il a bon pied, bon œil = He is hale and hearty.

C'est un bon vivant = He is a jolly companion.

Bon gré, mal gré = Willingly or unwillingly, *nolens volens.*

Bon avocat, mauvais voisin = The further from the law the better.

Il est bon que chacun s'accuse ainsi que moi = [La Fontaine.]

It is only fair that every one should confess his sins as I am doing.

A bon jour bonne œuvre = The better the day the better the deed.

Depuis que j'ai eu le malheur de lui déplaire, je ne suis pas bon à jeter aux chiens = Since I had the misfortune of displeasing him, he considers me a worthless creature.

Dites-moi une bonne fois ce qui en est = Tell me once for all how the case stands.

Est-ce pour tout de bon? = Is it in earnest?

A la bonne heure! = Well done! That's right!

Tenez bon! = Hold out; stand fast.

Tout leur est bon = Nothing is amiss to them. All is fish that comes to their net.

En voilà une bonne! Elle est bonne, celle-là! [*plaisanterie* understood] = That's a good one! That's a good joke!

Vous avez encore cent francs de bon = You have still 100 francs to the good.

Il ne fait pas bon se fier à lui = It is not safe to trust him.

Que vous êtes bon de croire cela! = How silly you are to believe that!

Vous êtes bon là, vous! = I daresay! That's all very fine.

Il nous en a dit de bonnes = He told us some capital stories.

A quelque chose malheur est bon = It is an ill wind that blows good to no one.

Les bons comptes font les bons amis = Short reckonings make long friends.

A bon vin point d'enseigne = Good wine needs no bush.

Bond.—*Il faut prendre la balle au bond* = We must seize time by the forelock.

Il s'élança d'un bond par-dessus la muraille = He cleared the wall at a bound.

Surtout, ne nous faites pas faux bond = Above all, don't disappoint us.

Il ne va que par sauts et par bonds = He only goes by fits and starts.

Bonheur.—*Vous nous portez bonheur* = You bring us good luck.

Au petit bonheur! = I'll risk it. ~~Come what may.~~

Le bonheur est à ceux qui se suffisent à eux-mêmes = Happiness is the lot of the self-relying.

Plus que noblesse, bonheur oblige = Happiness entails duties, even more than nobility.

Il joue de bonheur = He is in luck.

Bonhomme.—*Il continue d'aller son petit bonhomme de chemin* = He keeps going jog-trot.

C'est un faux bonhomme = He is a hypocrite.

Bonjour.—*C'est clair comme bonjour* = It is as clear as daylight.

Bonne.—*Une bonne à tout faire* = A maid of all work; a general servant.

Bonnet.—*C'est bonnet blanc et blanc bonnet* = It is six of one and half-a-dozen of the other.

Ce sont deux têtes dans un bonnet = They are hand and glove together.

Il a pris cela sous son bonnet = He took it upon himself: He invented it.

Ses collègues opinent du bonnet = His colleagues have no opinion of their own.

Il avait mis ce jour-là son bonnet de travers = He was in a very bad temper on that day.

Je parle à mon bonnet = [MOLIÈRE.]
I am speaking to myself.

Ils jettent leur bonnet et se confessent vaincus = They give up all hope of success.

Il a la tête près du bonnet = He is very hasty.

Il y a long-temps qu'ils ont jeté leurs bonnets par-dessus les moulins = They have long ago thrown off all sense of propriety.

C'est un des gros bonnets de l'endroit = He is one of the swells of the place.

Il est triste comme un bonnet de nuit = He is as dull as ditchwater.

Bord.—*Il a le cœur sur le bord des lèvres* = He is very frank.

La rivière coule à pleins bords = The river is full to overflowing.

Ce prudent politicien a viré de bord = That prudent politician has changed sides.

Il a jeté ses opinions d'antan par-dessus bord = He has cast his old opinions to the winds.

Je les crois du même bord = I believe they share the same views.

Borgne.—*Un cabaret borgne* = A low public-house.

Elle jase comme une pie borgne = She chatters like a magpie.

Il a changé son cheval borgne contre un aveugle = He has changed for the worse.

Au royaume des aveugles, les borgnes sont rois = In the kingdom of the blind the one-eyed people are kings.

Borne.—*Pour le coup, ceci passe toutes les bornes* = Now, this is going too far.

Il est planté là comme une borne (familiar) = He stands there like a post.

se Borner.—*Qui ne sait se borner ne sut jamais écrire* = [BOILEAU, *L'Art Poétique.*]

He who cannot write concisely never knew how to write.

Bosse.—*Il ne rêve que plaies et bosses* = ~~He is bent on mischief.~~ He's out to do some mischief.

Je reçus douze réaux pour mes ordonnances; ce qui me fit prendre tant de goût à la profession, que je ne demandai plus que plaies et bosses = [*Gil Blas.*]

For these prescriptions I received twelve rials, which made me so enamoured of the profession that I thought, the more mischief the better sport.

Bossoir.—*C'est un pilote vigilant qui a l'œil au bossoir* = He is a watchful pilot who keeps a good look-out.

Bossu.* —*Il riait comme un bossu* = He was laughing heartily.

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* *Rire comme un bossu* is an old popular saying, perhaps hardly justified in the sense attached to it; for "bossus" are not particularly remarkable for their liveliness or disposition to laugh heartily, their mirth being too much inclined to sourness; a fact which, as things go, is not to be wondered at, hunchbacks being emphatically members of "the army of martyrs." They are seldom kindly treated by the world at large; and, whilst most infirmities, such as lameness or blindness, are looked upon with sympathy and genial pity, the poor hunchback is too often exposed to heartless mockery; and we find that even so humane a creature as the good Giannina in Coppée's touching story in the *Luthier de Crémone* can scarcely refrain from recoiling with disgust from poor Filippo's deformity:

"*Epouser Filippo!—Pourquoi pas?—Un bossu!*"

And presently the poor, persecuted hunchback himself comes in to tell the tale of his misery:

"*De méchants polissons*
Qui s'armant de cailloux fort durs et de tessons
Ont voulu m'assommer . . .
Bravement je m'avance au sein du populaire;
En demandant pitié, j'excite la colère.
Ah! l'on ne songe plus à la bête, à présent.
Lapider un bossu, c'est bien plus amusant!"

Does not this graphic and too truthful picture give the lie to the idea implied in the phrase *Rire comme un bossu?* For, with the lot cast

Il est malin comme un bossu = He is cunning and mischievous.

Botte.—*Une botte d'asperges, de carottes* = A bundle of asparagus, of carrots.

—*Une botte de foin* = A truss of hay.

Il a du foin dans ses bottes = He has feathered his nest.

Pousser, porter une botte à quelqu'un = To give a home thrust.

Il lui a porté une vilaine botte = He served him a very shabby trick.

A propos de bottes = With reference to nothing at all, for no reasonable cause.

Bouc.—*C'est le bouc émissaire de la bande* = He is the scapegoat of the gang.

Bouche.—*Cela fait venir l'eau à la bouche* = It makes one's mouth water.

—*Je le garde pour la bonne bouche* = I keep it for the last, as a tit bit.

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upon him, how could a "bossu" be merry, and addicted to hearty laughing?

Much more correct in its import is the equally well-known expression: *Malin comme un bossu.* For the poor ill-favoured and ill-used hunchback may be said to have received from Nature a compensation for his bad luck in a remarkable keenness of perception and a pungent wit. In fact, those natural faculties have forcibly been further sharpened by the hostile attitude of the world towards him. A popular saying records the truism that even a miserable worm will turn round against an aggressor. The poor hunchback has been ill-treated by the world since his infancy—he has turned round against the world in self-defence. No wonder, then, that he is *malin*, that is, sharp, shrewd, and—why not say it?—malignant and revengeful. In justice to those unfortunate *déshérités*, to borrow a hackneyed term from the declamatory tirades of our ultra-radical orators, I must quote the following judicious remarks from Toppfer's *Nouvelles Génevoises:*

"Sans cesse en butte aux attaques du ridicule, ils ramassent l'arme qu'on leur lance, et la renvoient aiguisée par une malice vengeresse. C'est dans ce triste exercice que leur œil se forme à saisir du premier coup le côté vulnérable de leur adversaire, et à y décocher d'une main prompte et sûre un trait qui frappe juste et fort. C'est, en particulier, dans ce triste exercice que les bossus du bas peuple, ceux que rien ne protège et que rien ne contraint, contractent cet air d'ignoble malice, ce cynique sourire, ce regard disgracieux et jaloux, cet esprit caustique enfin, que le proverbe signale, sans ajouter ni faire entendre qu'il n'est que l'arme d'une légitime défense opposée à une agression basse et méchante."

Elle s'ôterait les morceaux de la bouche pour ses enfants = She would deprive herself of necessaries for her children.

Je lui ai fermé la bouche = I silenced him.

Cet homme est fort en bouche = That man will out-talk anybody.

Allons ! ne faites donc pas la petite bouche = ~~Come, don't pretend not to like it, or not to want any more, when you really wish for some~~.

Vous avez toujours cela à la bouche = You are ~~continually repeating that.~~

Bouche close !—bouche cousue ! = Mum is the word.

Elle est restée bouche béante = She stood gaping.

Pourquoi faites-vous ainsi la bouche en cœur ? = Why do you thus screw up your mouth, purse up your lips ?

Il prend sur sa bouche pour faire face à cette dépense = He stints himself to meet that expenditure.

Ils en ont eu à bouche que veux-tu = They had more than enough. They were treated most liberally.

Selon ta bourse gouverne ta bouche = Cut your coat according to your cloth.

Bouchon.*—*A bon vin il ne faut point de bouchon* = Good wine needs no bush.

Boudin.—*L'affaire s'en est allée en eau de boudin* = ~~The undertaking came to nothing~~.

Bouillon.—*Le sang sortait à gros bouillons* = The blood was gushing out copiously.

Il a bu un bouillon [familiar] = He has ~~experienced~~ a ~~serious~~ loss.

Boule.—*Il n'a eu que des boules blanches à son examen* = All the examiners passed him.

Les dettes nationales ont une façon de faire la boule de neige = National debts have a way of increasing like snow-balls.

J'irai à l'appui de la boule = I will back you.

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* In other words, *A bon vin point d'enseigne.* "Bush" is in fact the equivalent of a sign-board, being a bough or bunch fixed at a public-house door to indicate the sale of liquors.

Boulet.—*Dans sa nouvelle brochure il tire à boulets rouges sur le gouvernement* = He cuts up the Government in his new pamphlet.

Bourgeois.*—*Cuisine bourgeoise* = Plain cooking.

Pension bourgeoise = Boarding-house.

Les officiers étaient en bourgeois = The officers were in plain clothes.

Bourreau.—*C'est un bourreau d'argent* = He is a spendthrift.

Bourse.—*Ami jusqu'à la bourse* = A friend whose devotion stops short of lending money.

Loger le diable en sa bourse † = To be penniless.

Selon ta bourse gouverne ta bouche = Regulate your expenses on your means.

Il l'a fait sans bourse délier = He did it without spending any money.

Bout.—*Il sait tout cela sur le bout du doigt* = He has all that at his fingers' ends.

Elle riait du bout des dents = She was laughing on the wrong side of her mouth.

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* The import of this word *bourgeois* has in the course of time undergone many changes. Thus, after having long enjoyed the honourable mediæval sense of freeman of a borough, a technical meaning which is to some extent preserved in Conservative England, it came down to express a rather common cast, or tone of life, as opposed to *aristocratie*—as a record of which we meet with such phrases as this:—

"*On y fait l'homme d'importance,*
Et l'on n'est souvent qu'un bourgeois."
La Fontaine.

But now again, at the end of this 19th century, when the world, for better for worse, is entering a new phase under the magic triad, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," the old lines of demarcation between the different classes of society are being considerably modified, and it may almost be said that only two classes are now acknowledged, viz., the *classe bourgeoise* and the *classe ouvrière*, so that a "bourgeois" has come to mean a private gentleman who stands above his fellows in wealth or education.

† In olden times a cross was commonly engraved on coins; hence the notion that the Evil Spirit occupied an empty purse, where there was no such pious emblem to keep him off.

C'est du bout des lèvres qu'elle nous a fait cette promesse = She does not mean to keep her promise.
Il a montré le bout de l'oreille = He betrayed himself.
Il est artiste jusqu'au bout des ongles = He is an artist to the tips of his fingers.
Les pauvres gens ont bien de la peine à joindre les deux bouts = The poor people find it hard to make both ends meet.
Au bout de l'aune faut (manque) le drap = [See AUNE.]
On ne sait par quel bout le prendre = There is no knowing how to deal with him.
Vous n'êtes pas au bout = Your troubles are not over.
Je suis à bout = I am done for.
Viendra-t-on jamais à bout du Canal de Panama? = Will the Canal of Panama ever be finished?
Au bout du fossé la culbute = A short life and a merry one.
Il tient le haut bout dans cette société = He holds the place of honour, the upper end in that society.
Il est au bout de son rouleau = He has no resources left; he is at his wits' end.
C'est une économie de bouts de chandelle = It is being penny-wise and pound-foolish.
Ils brûlent la chandelle par les deux bouts = They burn their candle at both ends.
Au bout du compte = After all.
Ils m'ont poussé à bout = They drove me to extremities.
Vous avez mis ma patience à bout = You have exhausted my patience.
Bout de l'an—Service du bout de l'an = Anniversary service at church, in remembrance of a dead person.
S'il a 40 ans, c'est tout le bout du monde = He is barely 40, at the outside.
D'un bout à l'autre = From beginning to end.
Il a tiré sur sa victime à bout portant = He fired point blank at his victim.
A tout bout de champ = At every turn.
Nous avons eu tout le temps vent de bout = We had the wind against us all along.

Bouteille.—*Il n'a rien vu que par le trou d'une bouteille* = He has seen nothing of the world.

C'est la bouteille à l'encre = It is a subject of endless discussion; There is no making anything out of it.

Boute-en-train.—*C'était le ~~joyeux~~ boute-en-train de la ~~pension~~* = [BALZAC.]

He was the life and soul of the ~~boarding-house.~~

Boutoir.—*Il n'épargne pas les coups de boutoir à ses propres amis* = His own friends are not safe from his hard blows.

Bouton.—*On lui a serré ~~le bouton~~* = They put the screws on him; to bring him up to the point.

Boutonné.—*Il est boutonné jusqu'au menton* = [MÉRIMÉE.]

He is very close, very reserved.

Braies.—*Il s'en est tiré les braies nettes* = He contrived to extricate hmself.

Braire.—*Les hommes faibles hurlent avec les loups, braient avec les ânes, et bêlent avec les moutons* = Weak men howl with the wolves, bray with the asses, and bleat with the sheep.

Braise.—*Il est chaud comme braise* = He is very hot-tempered.

Il m'a joué un mauvais tour, mais je le lui ai rendu chaud comme braise = He behaved spitefully to me, but I gave it him back pretty hot.

Tomber de la poêle dans la braise = To fall out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Il a passé là-dessus comme chat sur braise = He would not dwell on that topic.

Il l'a donné chaud comme braise = He blurted out the bad news.

Branche.—*Il vaut mieux s'attacher au gros de l'arbre qu'aux branches* = Better apply—or attach one's self—to the head than to the subordinates.

— *Il est comme l'oiseau sur la branche* = ~~He knows not what the morrow may bring forth.~~ He is very unsettled. He's out on a limb.

Branle.—*Cela a suffi pour mettre en branle conjectures et commentaires* = It proved sufficient to set in motion all sorts of surmises and comments.

Un Dumas ou un Sardou trouve instinctivement le trait qui met en branle l'imagination de la foule et la lui asservit = [F. SARCEY.]

A Dumas or a Sardou instinctively hits upon the trait which stirs up the imagination of the crowd, and actually enslaves it.

Branler.—*Tout ce qui branle ne tombe pas* = Everything that shakes doesn't fall.

Bras.—*Ils se promenaient bras dessus bras dessous* = They were walking arm in arm.

Il est tombé sur eux à bras raccourci = He fell upon them with all his might.

Il frappait à tour de bras = He was hitting as hard as he could.

Cette pauvre veuve a cinq enfants sur les bras = That poor widow has five children to support.

Je n'ai pas les bras longs = I have no influence whatever.

Les bras m'en sont tombés = I was astonished.

Ils sont là les bras croisés = There they are doing nothing.

J'ai les bras rompus = I am overwhelmed with fatigue.

Il a beaucoup d'affaires sur les bras = He is overwhelmed with business.

C'est le bras droit du chef = He is the right hand of the chief.

Ils lui donnent du milord gros comme le bras = They affect to "my lord" him profusely.

Je l'ai saisi à bras le corps = I seized him round the waist.

Il ne vit que de ses bras = He lives by the labour of his hands.

Si on lui en donne long comme le doigt, il en prend long comme le bras = If you give him an inch, he'll take an ell.

Selon le bras fais la saignée = Proportion the claims to the means.

Dans les pays neufs, les bras font prime = In new countries, labourers are at a premium.

On l'a applaudi à tour de bras = He was applauded vigorously.

Les bons bras font les bonnes lames = Any weapon will prove effective when bravely handled.

Brebis.—*Faire un repas de brebis* = To eat without drinking.

A brebis tondue Dieu mesure le vent = God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.

Qui se fait brebis, le loup le mange = Daub yourself with honey, and you'll be covered with flies.

"Where'er ye shed honey, the buzzing flies will crowd."
[MACAULAY, *Virginia.*]

Brebis qui bêle perd sa goulée = Great talkers are seldom active doers. The ass that brays most, eats least.

Brebis galeuse = Black sheep.

Il suffit d'une brebis galeuse pour infecter tout un troupeau = One scabbed sheep will taint the whole flock.

Folle est la brebis qui au loup se confesse = Be careful in the choice of your confidants.

Brebis comptées, le loup les mange = Excessive precautions do not secure us from danger. Don't reckon your chickens before they are hatched.

Bredouille.—*Il est allé à la chasse: il est revenu bredouille* = He went out shooting; he came back just as he went.

Bref.—*Bref* = In short.

Il observe les longues et les brèves = He is very punctilious.

Breloque.*—*Ils battent la breloque* [or, *la berloque*] = They talk at random.

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* *Battre la breloque*, figuratively used to express "talking nonsense," is properly, "To beat the drum in an irregular, broken manner." *Breloque*, according to Génin, is derived in its proper sense from the Latin *belluga*, a small fruit. Hence the nickname of *breloque* applied to anything small and meagre. Soldiers thus would say: *On bat la breloque*, meaning, We are called to go and partake of our small pittance, just in the same spirit as hungry schoolboys would say: Let us go and have our beakful of food. Then, to pass on to the figurative sense, *battre la breloque* would have come to apply to the talk of silly people, whose words carry no more sound than the noise of a drum.

Bride.—*Il fait bon tenir son cheval par la bride* = It is always well to act cautiously.

Il faut aller bride en main = One must be moderate and regulate his mode of life by his means.

Il est aisé d'aller à pied quand on tient son cheval par la bride = It is easy to go afoot when one leads one's horse by the bridle.

On lui tient la bride haute = He is kept under restraint.

On lui lâche trop la bride = They allow him too much liberty.

On lui met la bride sur le cou = They let him do what he likes.

Il a plus besoin de bride que d'éperon = He is an impetuous man who stands more in need of being checked than of being urged on.

Ne craignez rien, je le tiendrai en bride = Don't fear, I shall hold him tight.

A cheval donné on ne regarde pas la bride = One must not look a gift-horse in the mouth.

Courir à toute bride—à bride abattue = To run (or ride) at full speed.

Briller.—*Tout ce qui brille n'est pas or* = All is not gold that glitters.

Brin.—*Il n'y en a brin* = There is not a trace of the thing.

C'est un beau brin d'homme = He is a tall, well-set youth.

Un brin de fil = A bit of thread.

Pas un brin de feu = Not a bit of fire.

Brio.—*La pièce a été enlevée avec infiniment de verve et de brio* = The play was acted with a marvellous amount of spirit and dash.

Brisées.—*A marche sur les brisées de B* = A follows in B's footsteps.

Je ne voudrais pas aller sur ses brisées = I would never oppose him.

Au bout de ce temps je reparus à la cour, et repris mes premières brisées = [*Gil Blas.*]

At the end of that time I went back to court, and resumed my former habits.

Briser.—*Brisons là, s'il vous plaît* = [Molière.]
Let us drop this subject, please.

Brocher.—*Vous avez broché votre devoir aujourd'hui* = You have bungled over your exercise to-day.

Brochette.—*Cet enfant a été élevé à la brochette* = That child has been brought up with the most tender care.

Broder.—*Il brode bien* = He romances well. He shoots with a long bow.

Broncher.—*Il n'est si bon cheval qui ne bronche* = It is a good horse that never stumbles.

C'est un homme qui ne bronche jamais = He is a steadfast man who never flinches.

Brouiller.—*Les cartes sont brouillées entre eux* = They have fallen out.

Elle fait de son mieux pour brouiller les cartes = She does her best to embroil matters.

Il est brouillé avec la finance = He is hard up for cash.

Il a toujours été brouillé avec les chiffres, et moi avec les noms propres = He always was at sea with figures, and I never could recollect proper names.

se Brouiller.—*Il s'est brouillé avec la justice* = He got into trouble with the law.

Il s'est brouillé avec sa famille = He quarrelled with his family.

Voilà le temps qui se brouille = The weather is getting overcast.

Brouillon.—*Son tempérament brouillon a repris le dessus* = His meddling disposition has got uppermost.

Brouter.—*Où la chèvre est attachée, il faut qu'elle broute* = Where the goat is tied, there she must browse. One must submit to circumstances.

L'herbe sera bien courte s'il ne trouve de quoi brouter = The grass must be very short if he cannot get a bite. He can live on very little.

Broyer.—*Broyer du noir* = To be in a brown study.

Depuis Leopardi et Schopenhauer personne n'a broyé autant de noir = No one, since Leopardi and Schopenhauer, ever indulged in such gloomy fancies.

Bruit.*—*Beaucoup de bruit, peu de besogne* = Great cry, little wool.

Beaucoup de bruit pour rien = Much ado about nothing.

L'affaire fait du bruit = The affair is making a great noise.

Le bruit court que . . . = It is reported that . . .

Il court un bruit sourd = It is whispered about.

Il fait plus de bruit que de besogne = He is more fussy than industrious.

Un bruit assez étrange est venu jusqu' à moi =
[RACINE, *Iphigénie*.]
A rather strange rumour has reached me.

Qui a bruit de se lever tard a beau se lever matin = It is hard to fight against prejudice.

Qui a bruit de se lever matin peut dormir jusqu' au soir = A good reputation covers an infinity of sins.

Le bien ne fait jamais de bruit, et le bruit ne fait jamais de bien = The good never does any noise, and the noise never does any good.

Le bruit est si fort, qu' on n'entend pas Dieu tonner = The noise is so great, one cannot hear God thunder.

Brûler.—*Nous avons brûlé nos vaisseaux* = We do not intend to draw back. We mean to fight desperately.

Il s'est brûlé la cervelle = He blew his brains out.

Nous brûlions les étapes = We passed rapidly through the halting-places without stopping.

Les pieds lui brûlent de partir = She is upon thorns to go.

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* *Apropos* of this proverb, I once heard a story which is worth recording. A few generations back, there was at the head of a great English school a gentleman of the name of Wool, who was of very small stature, but had apparently a heavy hand, and anyhow had a way of thrashing the boys unmercifully. A wag who possibly had felt keenly the force of what he wrote, chalked the popular saying, with a slight inversion: *Little wool and much cry*, over the door of the school's flogging room. I suspect that the *Peu de besogne* of the French equivalent would hardly apply in such a case.

Nous lui avons brûlé la politesse = We passed by him without saluting—or through it, without stopping.

J'en viendrai à bout, ou j'y brûlerai mes livres = I will bring it about, or I shall forfeit my name.

J'y brûlerai mes livres, ou je romprai ce mariage = [MOLIÈRE.]

I will break off that match, no matter what it may cost me.

Nous n'avons jamais brûlé d'encens sur l'autel de la popularité = [ÉMILE DE GIRARDIN.]

We have never flattered for the sake of popularity.

Il brûlait le pavé = He was riding very fast—rattling along.

Le général s'est emparé de la place forte sans brûler une amorce = The general made himself master of the stronghold without firing a single shot.

On a tiré sur lui à brûle-pourpoint = He was fired at quite close.

Le torchon brûle = Discord prevails in the household.

Le rôt brûle—La chandelle brûle = Time flies.

Graissez les bottes d'un vilain, il dira que vous les lui brûlez = There are some people whom it is dangerous to oblige.

Brusquer.—*Je résolus de brusquer l'aventure* = I resolved to carry on the adventure with a high hand.

Bûche.—*Cet homme ne se remue pas plus qu'une bûche* = That man stirs no more than a log of wood.

Buisson.—*Il n'y a si petit buisson qui ne porte ombre* = Scorn not the assistance or the spite of the most insignificant people.

Il a battu les buissons: un autre a pris les oisillons = He beat the bush: another caught the hare.

Les cambrioleurs ont heureusement fait buisson creux = The burglars luckily got hold of nothing.

J'ai laissé de ma laine à tous les buissons du chemin = [CHATEAUBRIAND.]

At every stage through life I have left an illusion behind me.

Buissonnier.—*Il fait souvent l'école buissonnière* = He often plays truant.

Faire de la vie une école buissonnière = [GEORGES SAND.]
To lead a roving life.

Bureau.—*Le Bureau du Sénat, de la Chambre des Députés* = The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and Questors of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies.

Bureau parlementaire = Committee.

Tenir bureau d'esprit (ironical) = To receive company to discuss literary matters.

On l'accusait de tenir bureau de bel-esprit = [SAINTE-BEUVE.]
She was accused of gathering around her the wits of the day.

Payer à bureau ouvert = To pay on demand.

Fournitures de bureau = Stationery.

Ouverture des bureaux = Opening of the doors.

Bureau de placement = Register office.

Buridan.*—*Il en est de lui comme de l'âne de Buridan* = He is on the horns of a dilemma, and cannot make up his mind which way to decide.

Buse.—*On ne saurait faire d'une buse un épervier* = A fool is hopeless. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

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* *Jean Buridan* was a dialectician of the 14th century who owes it to a donkey to have been saved from utter oblivion. He argued that if animals were not endowed with free-will, nature would be at fault, as they would not even have the means of securing their sustenance. In support of his argument, he would take a donkey equally hungry and thirsty, and place him between a peck of oats on one side and a pail of water on the other, both at equal distances from him and equally tempting, and then he would ask: What will this donkey do? He will either remain motionless, like a body mechanically balanced between two contrary and perfectly equal forces, and then he will die; or he will turn to one side or the other, and will thereby show his free-will. This captious dilemma proved so striking that it has made its way through successive generations, and nowadays if a man hesitates

But.—*Il est arrivé le premier au but* = He was the first to reach the goal.

Il m'a dit cela de but en blanc = He told me that abruptly.

Butte.—*Il y a trop long-temps que je suis en butte à sa mauvaise humeur* = I have been too long the victim of his bad temper. I have stood for his bad temper too long.

C.

Ça.—*Voyez donc les airs que ça se donne: ça ne se refuse rien* [contemptuously] = Just see what airs they give themselves: they deny themselves nothing.

C'est bien ça = That's just it.

C'est toujours ça = It is so much secured, so much to the good.

Or ça, sire Grégoire,
Que gagnez-vous par an? =
[LA FONTAINE.]

Well now, Master Gregory, how much do you make a year?

Cabinet.—*Il a un très bon cabinet* = He has a very good practice.

L'homme de cabinet a des plaisirs qui surpassent toutes les joies du monde—The man of literary pursuits, of studious habits, has pleasures that surpass all the joys in the world.

Une intrigue de cabinet = A ministerial intrigue.

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between two objects, or two positions having a like attraction in his eyes, he is at once compared with Buridan's donkey.

"Connaissez-vous cette histoire frivole
D'un certain âne illustre dans l'école?
Dans l'écurie on vint lui présenter
Pour son dîner deux mesures égales
De même force, à pareils intervalles;
Des deux côtés l'âne se vit tenter
Également, et dressant les oreilles,
Juste au milieu des deux formes pareilles,
De l'équilibre accomplissant les lois,
Mourut de faim, de peur de faire un choix."
VOLTAIRE.

Caboche.—*Il a une bonne caboche* [familiar] = He is a long-headed fellow.

Voyez-vous, vous avez la caboche un peu dure = [MOLIÈRE.]

Let me tell you, your head is rather hard.

se Cacher.—*Il ne s'en cache pas* = He makes no mystery of it.

Cadeau.—*Les petits cadeaux entretiennent l'amitié* = Small presents keep up friendship.

Cadet.—*C'est le cadet de mes soucis* [familiar] = It is the least—*i.e.*, the youngest born—of my thoughts.

C'est un cadet de haut appétit = He is an extravagant youth.

Cadre.—*Il ne figure plus sur les cadres* [military] = He is no longer on the effective list.

Cage.—*La belle cage ne nourrit pas l'oiseau* = There may be much discomfort under fine appearances.

Il vaut mieux être oiseau de campagne qu'oiseau de cage = Freedom is the greatest of blessings.

Il a été mis en cage = He was locked up.

La cage d'un escalier = The well of a staircase.

Cahier.—*Cette compagnie viole ouvertement son cahier des charges* = This company sets openly at defiance the clauses of her concession.

Cahin-Caha.—*Ma santé va cahin-caha* [*quâ hinc, quâ hac, que d'ici, que de là*] = I am only so-so.

Il a fait ce que je lui demandais, mais cahin-caha = He complied with my request, but reluctantly.

Caille.—*Elle a chaud comme une petite caille* = She is as warm as a toast.

Caisse.—*Passez à la caisse* = Go to the pay-office.

Un garçon de caisse = A collecting clerk.

Tenir la caisse = To keep the cash account.

C'est elle qui tient la caisse = She holds the purse-strings.

Caisse d'épargne = Savings bank.

Caisse militaire = Military chest.

Il sait battre la grosse caisse = He knows how to puff.

Calculer.—*Le plan était bien calculé* = The plan was well ~~concocted~~ made.

Calendes.—*Il vous renverra aux Calendes grecques* = He will put you off till Doomsday.

Calice.—*Il a vidé le calice jusqu'à la lie* = He drank the cup of bitterness to the dregs.

Califourchon.—*Chacun a son califourchon, dit Sterne* = Every one is astride on his hobby, says Sterne.

Calme.—*Calme plat* = Dead calm.

Calotte.—*On ne trouverait pas son pareil sous la calotte des cieux* = You could not match him under the canopy of heaven.

Camaraderie.—*Par esprit de camaraderie* = Out of party spirit.

Camelot.*—*Il ressemble au camelot, il a pris son pli* = He is incorrigible.

Camouflet.†—*Il a reçu un camouflet* = He received an affront.

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* *Camelot*, a woollen stuff, was originally made of camel's hair, but is now very carefully manufactured out of a superior goat's hair. The fault of the primitive material was to produce folds which could not be removed. Hence the proverb implying incorrigibility. As to the unlovely camelots of our large cities, those itinerant vendors of newspapers and other commodities, M. Francisque Michel tells us that their name is connected with camel, *chameau*, on account of the bulky load which "they often carry on their back, and which makes them appear hunchbacked." This explanation, I must say, can scarcely apply in the present time to the noisy individuals who make our most fashionable thoroughfares hideous with their distracting shouts.

† *Camouflet* (Latin *calamo flatus*) meant originally thick smoke puffed in the face of a person asleep with a cornet of lighted paper, especially in Shrove-tide. Eventually used figuratively, with the meaning of mortification.

I cannot resist the temptation of quoting here the *ipsissima verba* of a typical passage in Victor Hugo's *Misérables* apropos of this word "camouflet." "Qu'est-ce que recevoir un soufflet? La métaphore banale répond: *C'est voir trente-six chandelles.* Ici l'argot intervient, et répond: *Chandelle, camoufle.* Sur ce, le langage usuel donne au soufflet pour synonyme *camouflet.* Ainsi, par une sorte de pénétration de bas en haut, la métaphore, cette trajectoire incalculable, aidant, l'argot monte de la caverne à l'académie; et Poulailler disant: *J'allume*

Camp.—*Ils sont toujours en camp volant* = They cannot get settled. They are always on the wing.

L'alarme est au camp = They are in a great fright.

Oh! dit-il . . .
. . . Je mets l'alarme au camp = [LA FONTAINE.]

O! said he . . . I spread terror.

Campagne.—*Partir à la campagne* = To go into the country.

Partir en campagne = To set out campaigning.

Le Chef de la Police a mis ses plus fins limiers en campagne = The head of the police has sent out his shrewdest agents in all directions.

En rase campagne = In the open (unsheltered) country.

Vous battez la campagne = You stray from the question. You beat about the bush.

Quel esprit ne bat la campagne? = [LA FONTAINE.]

Where is the man whose mind never wanders?

Camus.—*Il voulait faire le capable, on l'a rendu bien camus* = [MONTAIGNE.]

He wanted to show off. He was soon made to look foolish.

Voilà des harangueurs bien camus = Here are speechifiers sadly crestfallen.

Canard.*—*C'est un canard, auquel le bon sens public n'a pas tardé à couper les ailes* = It is a false report, an idle story, which was speedily discountenanced by the public common-sense.

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ma camoufle, fait écrire à Voltaire : *Langleviel la Beaumelle mérite cen. camouflets.*

"Une fouille dans l'argot, c'est la découverte à chaque pas. L'étude et l'approfondissement de cet étrange idiome mènent au mystérieux point d'intersection de la société régulière avec la société maudite."—VICTOR HUGO, *Les Misérables*, vii.

* This word *Canard*, so frequently met with [because it expresses a very frequent occurrence], is applied to a false report inserted in a newspaper, and of course this mendacious bird is chiefly hatched when newspapers are short of copy, that is, when the legislative assemblies of the civilised world are closed, and courts of law happen to be mostly closed also for the vacation. I have looked in all possible directions for an explanation of this widely spread and very old expression, as

Cane.*—*Faire la cane* [or, more commonly now, *caponner*] = To show the white feather.

Quand les canes vont aux champs, la première va devant [ironical] = Why, you don't say so? How clever of you to have found that out!

Canossa.†—*Il n'est pas allé à Canossa* = He—a King or Emperor—did not humble himself before the ecclesiastical potentate.

Cap.‡—*Toutes les nations s'arment de pied en cap sous l'influence de la sainte horreur que leur inspire la guerre* = All the nations are arming cap-a-pie under the sense of holy horror which they feel for war.

Capable.—*Ne vous fiez pas à cet homme: il est capable de tout* = Do not trust that man: he is one to stick at nothing.

Cape.—*On disait autrefois d'un gentilhomme pauvre qu'il n'avait que la cape et l'épée* = It was formerly said of a titled gentleman without fortune that he had nothing but the cape (of his cloak) and his sword.

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applied to an impossible story, or a bold imposition on public credulity, without finding a satisfactorily authenticated account of its origin.

The word "Canard," in that peculiar sense, is traced by Oudin, on the older authority of Cotgrave, to the old expressions, *Vendre ou donner canard à moitié*, meaning to cheat, to deceive, to make believe.

In a ballet of 1612, we find the following lines—

"Parguieu! vous serez mis en cage,
Vous êtes un *bailleur de canars*,
J'avons fait changer de langage
Au moins à d'aussi fins renars."

Later on, the expressions *Donner des canards* and *Donneur de canards* were used without the addition of *à moitié*.

* *Faire la cane* is, properly, to be frightened without cause, like the duck who bobs down in the water at the slightest noise.

† This phrase, *Aller à Canossa*, which is very expressive, although, of course, of very limited application, as it can hardly refer to any but a crowned head, is an allusion to the degrading penance submitted to by the Emperor Henry IV. of Germany, in deference to his great enemy Gregory VII. (Hildebrand), then staying at Canossa, a castle in Modena, which was the residence of the Countess Matilda. Henry was exposed for several days to the inclemency of winter, January 1077, till it pleased the Pope to admit him into his presence.

‡ *Cap à pied* was also used in olden times, and it occasionally occurs in Montaigne's *Essays*. Hence the English version, *Cap-a-pie*.

Elle riait sous cape = She was laughing in her sleeve.

Et vous menez sous cape un train que je hais fort = [MOLIÈRE, *Tartufe.*]

And you lead on the sly a life which I detest.

Une pièce, un roman de cape et d'épée = A melodramatic play or tale, after the Spanish fashion.

Capot.—*Vous allez faire pic, repic et capot tout ce qu'il y a de galant dans Paris* = [MOLIÈRE, *Les Précieuses Ridicules.*]

You are going to nonplus all the nicest people in Paris.

Elle est demeurée capot = She remained quite confused.

Caque.—*La caque sent toujours le hareng* = What is bred in the bone will never come out of the flesh.

Ils sont serrés comme des harengs en caque = They are squeezed as flat as pancakes.

Car.—*Voilà bien des si, des mais et des cars* = What a number of ifs, of buts, and wherefores!

Caractère.—*Il a montré beaucoup de caractère* = He showed himself a man of spirit.

Je n'avais pas de caractère pour agir dans l'espèce = I had no authority to act upon in that case.

Il a le caractère bien fait = He is good-tempered.

Diseur de bons mots, mauvais caractère = [PASCAL.]

A jester has often a bad temper.

Carat.—*C'est un sot à vingt-quatre carats* = He is a complete fool.

Carême.—*Cela vient comme marée en carême* = It comes in the very nick of time, most seasonably.

Cela arrive comme Mars en carême = That comes regularly. It is sure to come.

Prêcher sept ans pour un carême = To keep repeating the same thing to no purpose.

Une face de carême = A wan countenance.

En caresme est de saison
La marée et le sermon ;
Se faire en ce temps chaircuitier [*charcutier*]
On n'y profite d'un denier =

The fish-bringing tide and the sermon are seasonable

in Lent; to establish one's self as a pork-butcher at that time is to make not a penny's profit.

Caresser.—*Ils caressent son orgueil* = They flatter his pride.

Il caresse des rêves ambitieux = He indulges in ambitious dreams.

Il y a long-temps qu'il caresse cet espoir = He has long been cherished that hope.

Carotte.—*Il m'a tiré une carotte* [familiar] = He cunningly extorted money from me.

Carpe.—*Vous bâillez comme une carpe* = You yawn your head off.

Muet comme une carpe = As dumb as a fish.

Faire la carpe pâmée = To sham fainting.

Carré.—*C'est une tête carrée* = He is an obstinate fellow.

Une partie carrée = A party composed of four men and four women.

Un carré d'asperges = A bed of asparagus.

Carreau.—*Il est resté sur le carreau* = He was killed on the spot.

Carrément.—*Je le lui ai dit carrément* = I told him so bluntly.

Carrosse.*—*Ils roulent maintenant carrosse* = They now keep their carriage.

C'est un cheval de carrosse = He is a coarse, brutal man.

Carte.—*C'est à vous à donner les cartes* = It is your deal.

Avez-vous battu les cartes? = Did you shuffle the cards?

Il connait le dessous des cartes = He knows the ins and outs of the thing.

C'est elle qui brouille les cartes = She it is who sows dissension.

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* *Carrosse*, a coach, being derived from the feminine Italian substantive *carrozza*, was originally feminine likewise—

> "*D'où vient* . . .
> *Que toujours d'un valet la carrosse est suivie?*"
>
> RÉGNIER.

Les cartes sont brouillées entre eux = [See BROUILLER.]

Il ne perd pas la carte = He is wide-awake. He has his wits about him.

Il s'est fait tirer les cartes = He got his fortune told him.

Nous jouons cartes sur table = We act frankly, openly.

Il sait faire des tours de cartes = He can show tricks with cards.

Je vous ai donné carte blanche = [See BLANC.]

Nous dînerons à la carte = We shall dine by the bill of fare.

Quel château de cartes! = What a pasteboard building!

Cas.—*Ce n'est pas un cas pendable* = It is no hanging matter.

En tout cas = At any rate.

En pareil cas = Under such circumstances.

Auquel cas = In which case.

C'est le cas ou jamais = It is now or never.

Hors le cas où il refuserait = Unless he refused.

Le cas échéant = In such a case.

J'en fais le plus grand cas = I set a very high value upon it.

Il n'est pas dans le cas de vous tromper = He is not capable of deceiving you.

C'est bien le cas de dire que tout en ce monde est possible = One may well say that everything may happen in this world.

Je m'en fais un cas de conscience = I make a scruple of it.

Tout mauvais cas est niable = A man is never obliged to plead guilty.

Casaque.—*Il a tourné casaque* = He is a turn-coat. He changed sides.

Cassation.—*Je me pourvoirai en cassation* = I shall lodge a supreme appeal. I shall sue for a writ of error.

Casse-cou.—*J'ai crié: casse-cou!* = I called out: danger!

Cet escalier est un vrai casse-cou = This staircase is a regular break-neck.

Cet homme est un casse-cou = This man is a dare-devil, a desperate character.

Casser.—*Il a eu le nez cassé* = He got his nose put out of joint.

~~*Qui casse les verres les paie* = He that does the damage must answer for it.~~

Le porto et tous les vins alcoolisés me cassent la tête = Port and all alcoholised wines get into my head.

se Casser.—*Il se cassera le nez, s'il s'entête* = ~~He will be balked, if he is obstinate~~.

Ne vous cassez donc pas la tête à ces énigmes = Don't puzzle your brains over those riddles.

Il s'est cassé la tête d'un coup de pistolet = He blew his brains out.

Il commence à se casser = He is beginning to break.

Casse-tête.—*Ce travail est un vrai casse-tête* = This is a real head-splitting work.

Cause.—*J'ai agi en connaissance de cause* = I had good ~~grounds for what I did~~.

Je ne suis pas en cause = I have nothing to do with it.

En tout état de cause = In any and every case.

Nous avons eu gain de cause contre ~~ces coquins~~ = We carried the day against ~~those rogues~~.

Je prendrai fait et cause pour vous = I shall take your part.

Je me tairai, et pour cause = I shall remain silent, and for a very good reason.

Ils feront cause commune avec nous = They will unite their efforts with ours.

Il fit une dernière tentative en désespoir de cause = He made a last ~~and~~ forlorn attempt.

Ses héritiers ou ayants-cause = His heirs or assigns.

Cautère.—*C'est un cautère sur une jambe de bois* = It is a cautery on a wooden leg, *i.e.*, a useless remedy.

Caution.—*Il est sujet à caution* = He is not to be relied upon [*i.e.*, not to be trusted except *on bail*.]

Je veux caution bourgeoise =

[Molière, *Les Précieuses Ridicules.*]

I want a trustworthy surety, a special bail.

Sous caution = On bail.

Ce.—*Sur ce, il nous congédia* = Thereupon he dismissed us.
Voilà ce que c'est que de ne pas prendre conseil = ~~Such is the consequence~~ of not seeking advice.
Si je le fais, c'est que je ne puis m'en dispenser = If I do it, it is because I cannot help it.
Vous auriez pu, ce me semble, écrire = You might, it seems to me, have written.
Ce que j'ai ri! [familiar] = Didn't I laugh!
Ce que je donnerais pour voir cela! [~~elliptical for, Je ne saurais vous dire ce que je donnerais~~] = What would ~~not~~ give to see that?
Pour ce faire = To bring that result about.
Ce n'est pas que j'y tienne tant = Not that I care so much for it.
Ce que je sais le mieux, c'est mon commencement =
[RACINE, *Les Plaideurs.*]
What I know best is my beginning.
À ce qu'il dit = From what he says.
À ce qu'il semble = As far as it appears.
Ce que c'est que cette jeunesse! = ~~It is just like all young people~~.
Les sardines étaient bonnes, mais les huîtres s'étaient gâtées en chemin. Ce que c'est que de nous! * =
[E. ABOUT, *Les Jumeaux de l'Hôtel Corneille.*]
The sardines were good, but the oysters had got bad on the way. What poor things we are!

Céans.—*Il sort de céans* = He has just gone out of the house.
Quoi! je souffrirai moi, qu'un cagot de critique
Vienne usurper céans un pouvoir tyrannique! =
[MOLIÈRE, *Tartufe.*]
What! shall I suffer a bigoted critic to come and usurp a tyrannical power in this house!

* *Ce que c'est que de nous!* This quaint ejaculation of the most witty of writers is an allusion to the double meaning of the word "huître," which, besides designating in its sober academical sense that excellent bivalve, which of late has unfortunately become so scarce, or rather so dear—not at all the same thing—is also popularly applied in trivial language, and in a spirit by no means flattering, to a "soft," weak-headed party.

Ceci.—*La créature la plus folle, la plus ceci, la plus cela qu'il soit possible d'imaginer* = [MME. DE SÉVIGNÉ.]

The most giddy, the most hoity-toity creature you could imagine.

Ceinture.*—*Bonne renommée vaut mieux que ceinture dorée* = A good name is better than riches.

Cela.—*C'est bien cela !* = That's it.

C'est cela même = That's the very thing.

N'est-ce que cela ? = Is that all ?

Comment cela ? = How so ?

Je me porte comme cela = I am so-so.

Que voulez-vous que j'y fasse ? Il est comme cela = I can't help it. That's his way.

Cela se croit si jolie ! = She thinks herself so very pretty !

C'est parler, cela ! = That is what I call to speak frankly.

C'est ceci, c'est cela = It is now one thing, now another.

C'était ceci, c'était cela,
C'était tout, car les précieuses
Font dessus tout les dédaigneuses =
[LA FONTAINE.]

It was now one thing, now another ; it was anything ; for prudes are scornful in all matters.

Cendre.—*C'est un feu qui couve, qui dort sous la cendre* = It is a fire burning under the ashes.

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* *Bonne renommée vaut mieux que ceinture dorée.* There is an historical fact to account for this contradistinction between a good name and a gilded belt. In the reigns of Kings Charles VI. and Charles VII. of France, edicts were issued—in 1420 and 1446—forbidding the use of gilded belts among women of loose life. These edicts were, in fact, a repetition of a royal ordinance to the same purpose which is supposed to have emanated from Blanche de Castille, the Queen of Louis VIII. But like many ordinances of olden times, and for that matter, like many recent parliamentary enactments also, these edicts were soon disregarded, and the gilded belts became so general that public opinion was driven in despair to console itself with the saying : Never mind ; a good name will prevail—It is better than a rich belt.

Le feu qui semble éteint souvent dort sous la cendre = [CORNEILLE.]

The fire which seems extinguished often slumbers under the ashes.

Cent.—*Je vous le donne en cent* = (I bet you) a hundred to one.

Centre.—*Il cherche deux centres en un cercle* = He is seeking for an impossible thing.

Cercle.*—*Par une étrange anomalie de langage, voici un cercle ouvert qui se ferme et qui rouvert sera un cercle fermé* = By a peculiar anomaly of language, here is an open club which is closed, and which when re-opened will become a close club.

Cérémonie.—*Ne faites pas de cérémonies* = Do not stand on ceremonies.

Visite de cérémonie = Formal visit.

Cervelle.—*Nous avons de nos pensionnaires qui sans doute étaient autrefois d'importants personnages—de fines cervelles* = [SAINTINE, *Picciola.*]

We have amongst our inmates men who doubtless were formerly important personages—men who had brains.

Chacun.—*A chacun son dû* = Give the devil his due.

À chacun selon ses œuvres = Give every one his share.

Chacun prend son plaisir où il le trouve = Every one to his liking.

Chacun le sien = Every one his own.

Chacun pour soi et le bon Dieu pour tous = Every one for himself, and God for us all.

Chair.—*Il n'est ni chair, ni poisson* = He is neither fish, flesh, nor fowl.

J'en ai la chair de poule = I shudder at it; it makes my flesh creep.

La résurrection de la chair = The resurrection of the body.

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* In connection with these anomalous terms, see Note on AFFRONT.

Pester entre cuir et chair = To be dissatisfied without daring to show it.

Rire entre cuir et chair = To laugh inwardly.

Hacher menu comme chair à pâté = To cut up as small as mince-meat.

La chair la plus près des os est la plus tendre = The nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat.

En chair et en os = In flesh and blood.

Un poulet bien en chair = A nice fat fowl.

Chaire.—*Le roman ne peut réussir qu'à la condition de ne pas monter en chaire* = [PAUL FÉVAL.]

A novel can only succeed on condition of not preaching.

Chaise.—*Chaise à bascule* = Rocking-chair.

Chaise à porteurs = Sedan-chair.

Chambre.—*Chambre des Lords, Chambre des Communes* = House of Lords, House of Commons.

Il a bien des chambres à louer dans la tête = He is rather cracked.

Chambre d'ami = Spare bedroom.

Chameau.—*Rejeter le moucheron et avaler le chameau* = To strain at a gnat and to swallow a camel.

Champ.—*Il a pris la clef des champs* = He has run away.

Nous lui avons donné la clef des champs = We set him free.

Je vous laisse le champ libre = I leave you a clear stage.

Il s'est sauvé à travers champs = He has taken to his heels—~~over hedge and ditch.~~

Il a toujours un œil aux champs et l'autre à la ville = He always keeps an eye to the main chance.

Il me fait l'effet d'être aux champs = He appears to be uneasy.

Un rien le met aux champs = He gets angry for a mere nothing.

Donnez du champ à votre échelle = Stretch your ladder out.

Battre aux champs [~~military~~] = To ~~beat~~ the drum for a salute (in honour of the Chief of the State).

A tout bout de champ = Incessantly.

Chance.—*La chance a tourné* = The tables ~~are~~ turned.
Chance vaut mieux que bien jouer = Good luck is better than skill.
Il n'y a chance qui ne rechange = Fortune is inconstant.

Chandelle.—*Il est venu se brûler à la chandelle* = He came and burnt his wings.
À chaque saint sa chandelle = Honour where honour is due.
Ils brûlent la chandelle par les deux bouts = [See Bout.]
Il vous doit une belle chandelle = He has cause to be very thankful to you.
La chandelle brûle = [See Brûler.]
Le jeu n'en vaut pas la chandelle = It does not cover the cost.
C'est une économie de bouts de chandelle = [See Bout.]
J'en ai vu trente-six chandelles = ~~I was so stunned that I saw all the colours of the rainbow.~~

Change.—*Les chiens ont pris le change* = The dogs are on the wrong scent.
Cela ne donnera pas le change au pays = The country will not be easily imposed upon.
J'ai perdu au change = I lost by the bargain.
Lettre de change = Bill of exchange.

Changer.—*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* = Every new change leaves things exactly as they were.
Il faut que cet enfant ait été changé en nourrice = That child must be a changeling.
Il n'a pas été changé en nourrice = He is a chip of the old block.
Il changera de ton = He shall alter his manner.
Il est changé en bien, en mal = He has changed for the better, for the worse.
Nous avons changé notre cheval borgne contre un aveugle = We have lost in the exchange.
Il vous faudra changer de batterie = You will have to go to work in a different way.
Tel change qui ne gagne pas = You may change and fare worse.

Chanson.—*Chansons que tout cela* = That is all nonsense.

Ce sont des chansons que tout cela. Je sais ce que je sais = [MOLIÈRE.]

This is all idle talk. I know what I know.

En France, tout finit par des chansons = In France, everything ends off with a song.

Chantage.—*Ce misérable vit de chantage* = The wretch lives by the extortion of hush-money.

Chanter.—*Ce n'est pas à la poule à chanter devant le coq* = The wife owes submission to her husband.

C'est comme si vous chantiez = You might as well talk to the wind.

Il chante toujours la même chanson = He is ever harping on the same string.

Qu'est-ce qu'il vient nous chanter? = What on earth does the man mean?

Je lui ai chanté sa gamme = I rated him soundly.

Ils ont voulu le faire chanter = They tried to extort money from him by threats of public exposure (or by promises of public eulogy). They tried to blackmail him

Je le ferai chanter sur un autre ton = I'll make him sing to another tune.

Tel chante qui n'a joie = Joy is occasionally put on to disguise sorrow.

Tous les jours, tour à tour
Elle nous chantait pouille, avant la fin du jour = [DESTOUCHES.]

Every day, by turns, she called us names, before the day was over.

Chantier.—*Il a un nouvel ouvrage sur le chantier* = He has a new work in preparation.

Chapelet.—*Nous avons défilé chacun notre chapelet* = Each of us told his story.

Chapître.—*Elle se plaint de n'avoir pas voix au chapître* = She complains that she is not consulted—that she has no voice in the matter.

Une fois sur ce chapître, elle en a long à dire = When once on this subject, she has a great deal to say.

Chapîtrer.—*Je l'ai chapîtré comme il faut* = I lectured him properly.

Chapon.—*Chapon de huit mois, chapon de rois* = An eight months' capon is a kingly fare.

Qui chapon mange, chapon lui vient = He that has plenty shall have more.

Qui chapon donne, chapon lui vient = One present brings another in return.

Chaque.—*Chaque oiseau trouve son nid beau* = Home is home, be it ever so homely.

Chaque tête, chaque avis = Many men, many minds.

Chaque pays a sa guise = Many countries, many customs.

Charbonnier.*—*Charbonnier est maître chez lui* = An ~~Englishman's~~ house is his castle.

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* *Charbonnier est maître chez lui.* This old proverb is but another form of a still older saying:

> "*Or, par droit et par raison,*
> *Chacun est maître en sa maison,*"

and is supposed to have originated, in this later wording, at the time of Francis I., who is indeed made to play a gracious part in the story adduced. We are told that His Majesty, when out hunting, got separated from his suite and sought shelter in a charcoal-burner's hut. This man was not otherwise than hospitable to his unknown visitor; but still he claimed to keep for himself the only decent chair he owned in his cottage, quoting in explanation, we are told, the above not very civil maxim. The supper was very good, as it consisted of a haunch of venison, the proceeds of the charcoal-burner's poaching on the royal preserves, about which of course he took care to recommend the greatest discretion, for fear the matter should reach the ears of *Grand-Nez* (His Majesty's popular nickname). We may imagine the poor coal-burner's feelings the next morning when, on the royal hunting party turning up, he recognised King Francis in the gentleman on whom he had bestowed his uncourteous proverb and his stolen venison. His French Majesty, however, showed himself a noble prince; for we are told that by way of rewarding the poor "charbonnier" for his hospitality, Francis actually gave him the benefit of certain rights in connection with the royal forest, and it is even said was pleased to grant him certain privileges to be enjoyed by the whole corporation of charcoal-burners.

Charge.—*Ce sont de lourdes charges* = These are heavy expenses.

Ils ont été laissés à la charge de la commune = They have been left on the parish.

Il est à charge à sa famille = He is a burden to his family.

Il reviendra à la charge = He will be at it again.

Un homme d'esprit, et d'un caractère simple et droit, peut tomber dans quelque piège. Il n'y a qu'à perdre pour ceux qui viendraient à une seconde charge, il n'est trompé qu'une fois = [La Bruyère.]

A sensible man, candid and upright, may fall into a snare. But any one who would attempt again to victimise him would fare badly; for he is not to be taken in more than once.

J'y consens; mais à la charge d'autant = I consent; but on condition that you will do as much for me.

Il fait de son rôle une vraie charge = He exaggerates his part and makes a caricature of it.

Témoins à charge = Witness for the prosecution.

Femme de charge = Housekeeper.

Il s'est démis de sa charge = He has resigned his place.

Charger.—*Sa description est un peu chargée* = The story is rather amplified.

Il charge trop ses rôles = He overdoes his parts.

Je ne puis pas m'en charger = I cannot take it upon myself.

Et Monsieur le Curé
De quelque nouveau saint charge toujours son prône = [La Fontaine.]

And M. le Curé is always lugging in a new saint into his sermon.

Charité.—*Charité bien ordonnée commence par soi-même* = Charity begins at home.

Il fait généreusement la charité = He gives alms liberally.

Charlemagne.*—*Faire Charlemagne* = To withdraw from

* There seems to be only one way of accounting for this expression: *Faire Charlemagne.* Here it is as suggested by M. Génin in his "*Notes sur le Dictionnaire Français*": "I can only trace this phrase

the card-table after pocketing large profits without giving one's adversaries the chance of winning back their money.

Charme.—*Cela vous va comme un charme* = It fits you to a T.

Elle se porte comme un charme = She is in excellent health.

J'étais sous le charme = I was spell-bound. [E. About.]

Charretier.—*Il jure comme un charretier* = He swears like a trooper.

Il n'est si bon charretier qui ne verse = It is a good horse that never stumbles.

Charrette.—*Mieux vaut être cheval que charrette* = Better lead than be led.

Charrue.—*Mettre la charrue devant les bœufs* = To put the cart before the horse.

Charybde.—*Tomber de Charybde en Scylla* = To fall out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Chasse.—*Chasse à courre—au tir—au vol* = Coursing—shooting—fowling.

La chasse est fermée = The shooting season is closed.

Habit de chasse = Shooting-jacket.

Donner la chasse aux gens portant bâton = To drive away beggars. [La Fontaine.]

Chasser.—*Il chasse de race* = He is a chip of the old block.

La faim chasse le loup des bois = [See Bois.]

Qui deux choses chasse, ni l'une ni l'autre ne prend = Between two stools one falls to the ground.

Leurs chiens ne chassent pas ensemble = They are not on good terms with each other.

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to an allusion to the death of Charlemagne, which occurred at the time of the greatest power of the Frankish Western Empire. Charlemagne kept undiminished to the end all his conquests across the Rhine and beyond the Pyrenees and the Alps, and left the game of life without having lost any portion of the fruit of his victories. The player that retires with his hands full is supposed to do like Charlemagne. *Il fait Charlemagne.*" And it may be remarked that one of the four kings in a pack of cards does bear the name of Charlemagne. Anyhow, we have here a very great name strangely attached to a very shabby action.

Un clou chasse l'autre = One fancy, or passion, drives out another.

Il chasse aux blancs moineaux = He wastes his time in running after impossibilities.

Ils chassent sur nos terres = They encroach upon our prerogatives.

Ce navire chasse sur son ancre = The ship drags her anchor.

Chassez le naturel, il revient au galop =
[DESTOUCHES.]

What is bred in the bone will never come out of the flesh.

Chat.—*Ne réveillez pas le chat qui dort* = Let sleeping dogs lie. ~~When sorrow is asleep wake it not.~~

À bon chat, bon rat = Tit for tat; Diamond cut diamond; A Roland for an Oliver; Set a thief to catch a thief.

Quand les chats n'y sont pas, les souris dansent = When the cat's away, the mice will play.

Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide = Once bit, twice shy; A burnt child dreads the fire; A burnt dog dreads the fire. [See Note on ÉCHAUDÉ.]

Je ne veux pas acheter chat en poche = I won't buy a pig in a poke.

La nuit tous les chats sont gris = When candles are away all cats are grey.

Se servir de la patte du chat pour tirer les marrons du feu = To make a cat's-paw of any one.

Il n'y a pas là de quoi fouetter un chat = It's a mere trifle. It's not worth making a fuss about.

Ils ont d'autres chats à fouetter = They have other fish to fry.

Ce chanteur a un chat dans la gorge = That singer has something the matter with his throat.

J'appelle un chat un chat = I don't mince matters; I call a spade a spade.

J'appelle un chat un chat, et Rolet un fripon =
[BOILEAU.]

I call a spade a spade, and Rolet a thief.

Il n'y avait pas un chat dans la rue = There was not a soul in the street.

Ils s'accordent comme chiens et chats = They lead a cat and dog life.

Chat emmitouflé n'attrape pas de souris = The cat in gloves catches no mice.

Il le guette comme le chat fait la souris = He watches him as narrowly as a cat does a mouse.

On vous jettera chat aux jambes = They will lay the sin at your door.

Il a passé sur cette affaire comme chat sur braise = He passed rapidly over that matter, like a cat on hot bricks.

**Un tel n'a pas de bon vin: Non, c'est le chat!* = Such-a-one has no good wine—Don't you believe that!

Château.†—*Il fait souvent des châteaux en Espagne* = He often builds castles in the air.

Château de cartes = A pretty but flimsily-built country house.

Châtier.—*Qui aime bien châtie bien* = [See AIMER.]

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* This jocular phrase, *Un tel ne vend pas de bon vin—Non, c'est le chat!* which I have thought right to introduce here, is to be met with in Brittany, especially in the western districts of the *Bretagne Bretonnante*, over the entrance-door of almost every country inn. The last word of this truly idiomatic expression is generally replaced by a more or less artistic picture of a cat.

† *Faire des châteaux en Espagne* is to indulge in dreams of great material success or high social distinction which can never be realised. So far the idea of "châteaux" is comprehensible. But why in Spain? Apparently because when this expression was first introduced, there was no château, no great country-house in the Peninsula, and therefore it implies looking forward to what does not exist. And, by way of accounting for that fact, it is recorded that at the time when the Moorish incursions were frequent, the kings of Spain did actually forbid that any castles should be erected in the country for fear the Moors should take possession of them and turn them into fortresses.

"Une rêverie sans corps et sans sujet," says Montaigne (as far back as the 16th century), "régente notre âme et l'agite; que je me mette à faire des chasteaux en Espaigne, mon imagination m'y forge des commodités et des plaisirs desquels mon âme est réellement chatouillée et réjouie."

Chaud.—*Il faut battre le fer pendant qu'il est chaud* = One must strike the iron while it is hot—One must make hay while the sun shines.

Tomber de fièvre en chaud mal = To fall from a bad state into a worse one. To fall out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Il en parle bien à son aise : il a les pieds chauds = It is all very well for him to speak of it in that way : he is in very comfortable circumstances.

Elle pleurait à chaudes larmes = She was crying bitterly.

Cela ne fera ni chaud ni froid = That will make no difference whatever.

Cela ne lui fait ni chaud ni froid = It leaves him perfectly indifferent. It doesn't bother him at all.

Il n'a eu rien de plus chaud que d'aller leur en parler = The first thing he did was to go and tell them of it.

Arrière ceux dont la bouche
Souffle le chaud et le froid =
[La Fontaine.]

I will have nothing to do with those whose mouths blow hot and cold.

Chaudron.—*Couvercle digne du chaudron* = The lid matches the caldron.

Il rencontrait gens aussi fous que lui, et comme dit le proverbe, couvercle digne du chaudron =
[Rabelais.]

He met people as mad as himself, and, as the proverb has it, the caldron and the lid were a good match.

Chauffer.—*Ce n'est pas pour vous que le four chauffe* = Don't you wish you may get it?

se Chauffer.—*Je vous ferai voir de quel bois je me chauffe* = I will show you what ~~mettle~~ I am made of.

Chaumière.—*Chaumière où l'on rit vaut mieux que palais où l'on pleure* = A mirthful hut is better than a sorrowful palace.

Chausser.—*Les cordonniers sont les plus mal chaussés* = Nobody is worse shod than the shoemaker's wife.

Chaussure.—*Il a trouvé chaussure à son pied* = He found what he wanted; he met with his match.

Chauve.*—*L'occasion est chauve* = Opportunity ~~is not easily got hold of~~.

Chaux.—*Il faut qu'il soit bâti à chaux et à sable* = He must have an iron constitution.

La chaux enrichit le père et ruine les enfants = Land manured to excess must eventually lose its fertility.

Chef.—*Il a fait cela de son chef* = He has done that ~~by his own authority,~~ on his own responsibility.

Il a eu cette terre du chef de sa femme = He came in for that land by right of his wife.

C'est impolitique au premier chef = It is most impolitic.

Vous avez fait là un beau chef-d'œuvre [ironically] = That's a fine piece of work of yours!

Chemin.—*Il fera sûrement son chemin* = He is sure to get on.

Il n'y va pas par quatre chemins = He goes straight to the point.

Rebroussons chemin = Let us trace our way back.

Le grand chemin des vaches = The plain road.

Il prend le chemin de l'hôpital = He is on the way to the workhouse.

Le chemin des écoliers = The longest way round.

Il va son petit bonhomme de chemin = [See BONHOMME.]

Passez votre chemin = Go along with you.

Cet écolier a fait bien du chemin depuis peu = That schoolboy has made capital progress lately.

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* *L'occasion est chauve.* The English saying is "To take time by the forelock"; the French say, "Prendre l'occasion aux cheveux." Here we have the proverbial statement that "Occasion is bald." There is, however, no contradiction in these phrases. On the contrary, they confirm each other. For whilst the forelock means the hair in front of the head, the baldness alluded to in the present saying refers to the back of the head. As a matter of history, the ancients represented Occasion by the figure of a woman with locks flowing down her face, so as to allow of her being easily got hold of by the first person who met her, whilst she had no hair at her back, by which allegory they meant to convey the idea that on the one hand a good opportunity was placed before a wide-awake energetic party, but there was on the other hand no means of catching the symbolical female in her flight when once she was allowed to pass by unseized.

Il est arrivé à la fortune par un chemin de velours = He found an easy road to fortune.

Vous n'en prenez guère le chemin = You hardly go the right way to work.

Chemin faisant = On the way.

A chemin battu il ne croît pas d'herbe = No profit can accrue in an affair wherein too many are engaged. There are too many of the trade.

Avec le florin, langue et latin, par tout l'univers on trouve le chemin = With the florin, a tongue in your mouth and the command of Latin, you can find your way all over the world.

Ne vous arrêtez pas en si beau chemin = Do not give up the game when so near the goal.

Tout chemin mène à Rome = There are more ways than one of doing a thing.

En tout pays, il y a une lieue de mauvais chemins = Every enterprise is fraught with difficulties.

Bonne terre, mauvais chemin = In fat lands the roads are bad.

Vieux comme les chemins = As old as the hills.

Cheminée.—*Il faut faire une croix à la cheminée* = We must chalk that up.

Il se chauffe à la cheminée du roi René = He warms himself in the sun.

Sous la cheminée, sous le manteau de la cheminée = Privately, clandestinely.

Chemise.—*Il y mangera jusqu'à sa chemise* = He will ruin himself rather than give up that enterprise.

Il jouerait jusqu'à sa chemise = He would gamble away everything, to the shirt off his back.

Que ta chemise ne sache ta guise = Keep your thoughts innermost—to yourself.

Or il est bon que l'on vous dise
Qu'entre la chair et la chemise
Il faut cacher le bien qu'on fait =

[La Fontaine.]

It is right one should tell you that you must do good without ostentation [literally, Conceal the good you do between your flesh and your shirt].

Chêne.—*On n'abat pas un chêne au premier coup* = No oak is felled at one stroke.

Chercher.—*Allez le chercher* = Go for it.

Venez le chercher = Come for it.

Envoyez le chercher = Send for it.

Chère.—*Nous eûmes chère de commissaire* = We had a regular Lord Mayor's feast.

On y fait maigre chère = They live poorly there.

Il n'est chère que de vilain = There is nothing like a miser's feast.

Grande chère, petit testament = A fat kitchen makes a lean will.

Cheval.—*Il n'est si bon cheval qui ne bronche* = [See BRONCHER.]

A cheval donné on ne regarde pas à la dent = Never look a gift horse in the mouth. Beggars must not be choosers.

C'est son grand cheval de bataille = That's his favourite subject of argument.

C'est un excellent cheval de trompette = He can stand any noise. He is not easily dismayed.

Un vieux cheval de retour = A ticket-of-leave man.

Je lui ai écrit une lettre à cheval = I wrote him a very severe letter.

Il est à cheval sur l'étiquette = He is a stickler for etiquette.

Monter sur ses grands chevaux = To ride the high horse. To be upon the high ropes.

Il a changé son cheval borgne contre un aveugle = He did not gain anything by his bargain.

On loge à pied et à cheval = Good accommodation for man and beast.

L'œil du maître engraisse le cheval = There is nothing like the master's eye to make matters prosper.

Fièvre de cheval = Violent fever.

Travail de cheval = Very hard work.

Chevalier.—*Un chevalier d'industrie* = A swindler. A sharper.

Chevet.—*Il a trouvé cela sous son chevet* = He has dreamt of that.

Cheveu.—*Cela fait dresser les cheveux sur la tête* = That makes one's hair stand on end.

Un argument tiré par les cheveux = A far-fetched argument.

Il faut prendre l'occasion aux cheveux = You must take time by the forelock [See note on "CHAUVE."]

C'est fendre un cheveu en quatre = That is splitting a hair.

Il couperait un cheveu en quatre = He would skin a flint.

Ils se sont pris aux cheveux = They came to blows.

Cheville.—*Autant de trous, autant de chevilles* = A plaster for every sore.

C'est la cheville ouvrière de la maison = He is the mainspring of the establishment.

Les autres ne lui vont pas à la cheville ~~du pied~~ = The others are very inferior to him.

Chevillé.—*Il a l'âme chevillée ~~dans le~~ corps* = He has as many lives as a cat.

Chèvre.—*Où la chèvre est attachée, il faut qu'elle broute* = [See BROUTER.]

C'est un malin qui ménage la chèvre et le chou = He is a shrewd man who holds with the hare and runs with the hounds.

Chez.—*La bonne chose qu'un bon chez soi!* = [SAINTE-BEUVE.]

What a blessing a comfortable home is!

C'est chez lui une habitude = It has ~~grown into~~ a habit with him.

Il n'est pas de petit chez soi = [DUCIS.]

There is no place like home.

Il y a de l'avenir chez ce jeune écrivain = ~~There is much promise in this young writer.~~

Chicane.—*Je ne veux pas lui chercher chicane* = I don't want to pick a quarrel with him.

Chien.—*Tout chien qui aboie ne mord pas* = A barking dog seldom bites.

Qui aime Bertrand aime son chien = Love me, love my dog.

A bon chien il ne vient jamais un bon os = Merit seldom meets with its reward.

Bon chien chasse de race = Like sire, like son.

Un bon chien n'aboie point faux = An old dog barks not in vain.

En vain je m'efforçai de rompre les chiens = Vainly did I endeavour to prevent the quarrel [properly, In vain did I call off the dogs.]

Un chien regarde bien un évêque = A cat may look at a king.

Quand on veut tuer son chien, on dit qu'il est enragé = Give a dog an ill name.

A méchant chien court lien = A spiteful cur must be tied short.

Il fait un temps de chien—Il ~~fait un chien, de temps~~ * = The weather is ~~villainous.~~ wretched.

Il est comme le chien du jardinier = He is a dog in the manger.

Il fait un temps à ne pas mettre un chien dehors = It rains so hard you would not turn a dog out of the house.

Jetez-vous votre langue aux chiens? = Do you give it up?

C'est Saint Roch et son chien † = It is Darby and Joan.

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* We say with a like meaning, *Un chien de temps*, and *Un temps de chien*, properly, "Villainous weather," and "Weather only fit for a dog"—a twofold construction aptly illustrated by the well-known picture which shows a couple of French grenadiers marching through the open country in wretched weather, under a pelting rain, with their dog at their side, drenched to the skin.

† St. Roch deserves a special notice as one of the heroes of Charity. He was born at Montpellier in 1295 of a distinguished and wealthy family. Having early lost both his parents, he gave away all his property to the poor, and at twenty years of age he started as a pilgrim for Italy, where the plague was then raging. He devoted himself to the nursing of the victims, and cured many, but he got in his turn infected with the prevailing scourge, and we read that for fear of communicating this terrible disease, he left the hospital where he had been received, and withdrew to some secluded spot, where he nearly succumbed. He was, however, discovered there by a gentleman's dog, whose master attended to him until he was cured. He presently returned to his native country, which was at that time overrun by the

Qui vit comme chat et chien
Jamais n'a repos ni bien =

Those who lead a cat and dog life get neither rest nor good.

Chien hargneux a toujours l'oreille déchirée = Snarling curs are never free from sore ears.

Entre chien et loup * = In the dusk of the evening.

Chiffonner.—*Sa petite mine chiffonnée n'est pas désagréable* = Her irregular features are not otherwise than pleasant.

Cela me chiffonne un peu = That rather vexes me.

Chiffrer.—*Tout se chiffre aujourd'hui* = Nothing but money is valued nowadays.

Chipoter.—*La vie est trop courte pour chipoter* = [VOLTAIRE.]

Life is too short to contend about trifles.

Choisir.—*Ne choisit pas qui emprunte* = Borrowers must not be choosers.

Qui choisit trop prend le pire = Pick and choose, and take the worst.

Chorus.—*Tout le monde fit chorus* = They all chimed in.

Chose.—*Il a très-bien pris la chose* = He took the thing in good part.

La chose publique = The commonwealth.

Dites bien des choses de ma part chez vous = Remember me kindly at home.

Je me sens tout chose aujourd'hui [familiar] = I feel quite out of sorts to-day.

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troops of the King of Aragon. Being taken for a spy, he was arrested and thrown into prison. There he remained for five years without ever making himself known, bearing with most exemplary fortitude and patience that unjust and long captivity, which only ended with his life, on the 16th August 1327. The dog who had saved his life has very properly been associated with his memory.

* The wolf is rather like the dog in shape and general appearance, quite enough to make it often difficult to tell the one from the other in the dark. Hence this expression applied to dusk, when objects are not easily distinguished.

Monsieur Chose [very familiar] = Mr. What's-his-name.
Chose promise, chose due = What is promised is due.
Ce n'est pas grand'chose = It is a mere trifle.
Vous m'êtes toutes choses = [MME. DE SÉVIGNÉ.]
You are all in all to me.
En toute chose, il faut considérer la fin = [LA FONTAINE.]
Look before you leap.
Chaque chose à sa place = Let every tub stand on its own bottom.

Chou.—*Je suis venu ici planter mes choux* = I have come to live here in the country.
Chou pour chou, Aubervilliers vaut bien Paris = Take it all in all, Aubervilliers is as good as Paris (*i.e.*, so far as cabbages go!). All things have their particular merits.
Il s'entend à cela comme à ramer des choux = He knows nothing about it.
Cela ne vaut pas un trognon de chou = That's not worth a pin's head.
Qu'il en fasse des choux ou des raves = Let him do what he pleases with it.
Les domestiques avaient fait fi de ce plat, mais lui, il en a fait ses choux gras = The servants had turned up their noses at that dish, but he thoroughly enjoyed it.
*Mon petit chou** = My little duck. My little darling.
Chou à la crême = Puff pastry filled with cream (in the shape of a cabbage).

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* In this familiar phrase the word *chou* is borrowed from the pastry-cook's shop and not from the kitchen-garden; and the connection of a popular term expressing endearment with a delicate piece of pastry, viz., *un chou à la crême,* is certainly less irrational than with the notion of a vulgar vegetable. I cannot help feeling, however, that, putting things at the worst, a cabbage is scarcely more unattractive than that dirty feeder and uninteresting aquatic bird that is made to do duty to the same purpose in English. It must be admitted that, to speak idiomatically, there is hardly a pin to choose, as proper objects of a tender feeling, between the French *chou* and the English *duck.*

Ciel.—*Il a remué ciel et terre* = He left no stone unturned.

Clair.—*On n'y voit pas clair* = One cannot see.

C'est clair comme le jour = It's as clear as daylight.

C'est clair et net, n'est-ce pas? = That is quite plain, is it [redacted]?

L'affaire [redacted]H. n'a jamais été tirée au clair = The [redacted]. affair has never been cleared up.

Il fait clair de lune = It is moonlight.

Il a gaspillé le plus clair de son [redacted] = He has run through the [redacted] part of his property.

Ils sont clair-semés = They are thinly scattered.

Claque.—*C'est bien dommage que l'on n'essaie pas une bonne fois de se débarrasser de cette affreuse claque dans nos théâtres* = It is a great pity that serious efforts are not made to get rid of those objectionable paid applauders in our theatres.

Classe.—*A la rentrée des classes* = On the reopening of school or college.

Clef.—*Ils ont mis la clef sous la porte* = They have bolted.

Il a pris la clef des champs = He has run away.

Fermez la porte à clef = Lock the door.

On appelle la Pensylvanie l'État clef de voûte = The State of Pennsylvania is called the key-stone of the American vault.

Un trousseau de clefs = A bunch of keys.

Clef d'or ouvre toutes les portes = A full purse makes the mouth speak.

Clerc.—*Vous avez fait là un pas de clerc* = You have made a blunder.

On peut prédire sans être grand clerc qu'il n'en sortira rien de bon = It is easy to [redacted]tell, without being very knowing, that no good will come [redacted] of it.

Il ne faut pas parler latin devant les clercs = One must avoid speaking on a subject before those who have made a special study of it.

Les plus grands clercs ne sont pas toujours les plus fins = The most learned men are not always the most skilful.

N'en déplaise aux docteurs, cordeliers, jacobins,
Ma foi, les plus grands clercs ne sont pas les plus fins = [RÉGNIER.]

Whatever Doctors, Franciscans, and Jacobins may think, the most learned men, upon my word, are not the shrewdest.

Clin.—*En un clin d'œil* = In the twinkling of an eye.

Cloche.—*Vous êtes heureux de n'être pas sujet au coup de cloche* = You are a lucky man to have the command of your time, *i.e.*, not to be subject to the call of the bell.

On fait dire aux cloches tout ce qu'on veut = As the bell clinketh, so the fool thinketh.

À Paris, le bruit des cloches dit tout ce qu'on leur fait dire = [ALEX. DUMAS.]

In Paris you can explain a report, or rumour, as you please.

Mes locataires ont déménagé à la cloche de bois = My tenants have ~~run away~~ without paying their rent.

Qui n'entend qu'une cloche n'entend qu'un son = You must hear both sides. One tale holds good until another is heard.

Il est temps de fondre la cloche = It is time to act.

Il est penaud comme un fondeur de cloche = He is dismayed at a failure which he thought impossible.

Clocher (Subst.).—*Il n'a jamais perdu de vue le clocher de son village* = He does not know the world; he has never been out of his village.

Il faut placer le clocher au milieu de la paroisse = A thing that is intended for all should be placed within the reach of all.

Course au clocher = Steeplechase.

Clocher (Verb).—*Il ne faut pas clocher devant les boîteux* = One should do nothing to remind people of a natural defect—or to make them feel their inferiority.

Le raisonnement cloche = The argument is lame.

Ce vers cloche = That line halts, the measure is wrong.

Il y a quelque chose qui cloche dans l'affaire = There is a hitch in the case.

Clos.—*Bouche close!* = Keep your own counsel!
En champ clos = In the lists.
À huis clos = With closed doors, the public being excluded.

Clou.—*Un clou chasse l'autre* = One thought, one fancy, drives out another.
Je lui ai rivé son clou = I shut his mouth. I gave him a clincher.
Il est gras comme un cent de clous = He is as thin as a lath.
Il a pu compter les clous de la porte = He was kept waiting a long time at the door.
Ce sera le clou de l'Exposition de 1900 = It will be the wonder of wonders of the Exhibition of 1900.

Clouer.—*La maladie continue de le clouer dans son lit* = Illness still confines him to his bed.

Cocagne.—*Pays de cocagne* = Land flowing with milk and honey.
Mât de cocagne = Greased Maypole.

Coche.—*Il a manqué le coche* = He missed the tide. He let the opportunity slip.

Cochon.—*Camarades comme cochons* = Very thick together.
Avoir gardé les cochons ensemble = To be hail fellow well met.

Cœur.—*A cœur vaillant rien d'impossible* = A stout heart can overcome all difficulties.
Il l'a fait à contre-cœur = He did it reluctantly.
Ils s'en donnent à cœur-joie = They enjoy themselves to their heart's content.
C'est un crève-cœur = It is a heart-burning thing.
Elle a le cœur gros = Her heart swells with grief.
Il a pris cela trop à cœur = He got too much affected by it.
Je l'ai fait de bon cœur = I did it most willingly.
Le cœur vous en dit-il? = Have you a mind to it?
Il a le cœur sur la main = He is very liberal.
Il a le cœur au métier = He works zealously in the business.

Courage, Seigneur Bachelier, cela va le mieux du monde. Vous avez, à ce que je vois, le cœur au métier =
[*Gil Blas.*]

Well done, Signor Bachelor; it goes on mighty well. I see you are quite fond of your profession.

Il a le cœur sur les lèvres = He is frank, open-hearted.
C'est une affaire de cœur = It is a love affair.
Loin des yeux, loin du cœur = Out of sight, out of mind.
Elle y va de tout cœur = She is very hearty about it.
C'est un homme qui est tout cœur = He is of a noble and generous disposition.
Je veux en avoir le cœur net = I mean to ascertain the long and short of it.
Il a à cœur de s'en bien tirer = He is anxious to succeed in it.
Cela me tient au cœur = It rankles at my heart.
Je l'ai sur le cœur = It lies heavy on my heart.
J'ai aussi sur le cœur les coups de bâton de tantôt =
[Molière.]

Nor can I get over the blows I received this morning.

Il a diné par cœur = He has dined with Duke Humphrey, *i.e.*, he has had no dinner.
J'ai mal au cœur = I feel sick.
Cela fait mal au cœur = It is sickening.
Il parle d'abondance de cœur = He speaks frankly.
Faire contre mauvaise fortune bon cœur = To bear up against bad fortune.
Parlez-lui à cœur ouvert = Speak to her confidently.
Elle fait la bouche en cœur = She gives herself affected airs.
Mauvaise tête et bon cœur = Light-headed, kind-hearted.
Cela fend le cœur = That is heart-rending.
Maladie de cœur = Heart-disease.
Il a le cœur bien placé = His heart is in the right place.
Il a le cœur haut et la fortune basse = He is proud and poor.
De gaieté de cœur = Wantonly, for wanton sport.
Nous nous parlions cœur à cœur = We were talking together without restraint.

Elle ne mâche pas ce qu'elle a sur le cœur = She does not mince matters.

Cœur qui soupire n'a point ce qu'il désire = A sighing heart is never contented.

Cœur de biche ne gagna jamais cœur de belle = A faint heart never won fair lady.

Faire le joli cœur = To play, or do, the agreeable.

Au cœur de l'hiver = In the depth of winter.

Cognée.—*Ne jetez pas le manche après la cognée* = Do not give it up in despair. Do not throw the handle after the hatchet.

Il est allé au bois sans cognée = He did not provide himself with the requisites. He went to sea without biscuit.

Coi.—*Il s'est tenu coi* = He remained quiet.

Coiffé.*—*Il est né coiffé* = He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Il est coiffé de cette femme = He is bewitched with that woman.

Elle a coiffé Sainte Catherine = She remains an old maid.

Coin.—*Ces vers sont marqués au bon coin* = These verses bear the right stamp.

Il regarde les gens du coin de l'œil = He has a contemptuous way of looking at people.

Coing.—*Elle est jaune comme un coing* = [redacted] complexion ~~is very yellow~~.

Colin-Maillard.†—*C'est un vrai Colin-Maillard* = It is a regular game of blindman's buff.

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* *Être né coiffé*, to be born to good luck, literally, with a caul on. It is well known that amongst sailors (as recorded in Grose's *Superstitions*, i. 45) the possession of a caul is said to be a preservative against drowning.

† *Jean Colin-Maillard* was a famous warrior, living in the latter part of the 10th century, who owed the second portion of his name to the *mallet* which was his favourite weapon, and which he wielded with singular vigour and skill. His exploits procured him the honour of being knighted by Robert, King of France, in 999. In his last battle against a certain Count of Louvain, he got both his eyes put out; but this, we are told, did not prevent his continuing the fight to the end, with the guidance of his equerries. The invention of the game of *Colin-Maillard* doubtless refers to the memory of this brave warrior.

Colin-Tampon.*—*Il s'en moque comme de Colin-Tampon* = He does not care a fig about it.

Collet.—*La police lui a mis la main sur le collet* = He was arrested by the police.

— *Elle n'est pas collet-monté* = She is not prudish.

Il est vrai que le mot est bien collet-monté = [MOLIÈRE.]

The word, it is true, is stiff and affected.

Collier.—*Il est franc du collier* = He is frank and brave.

Merci de votre précieux coup de collier = Thanks for your valuable assistance.

Il s'agit de reprendre le collier de misère = We must go back to drudgery.

Colombier.—*Il attire les pigeons au colombier* = He draws in customers.

Combat.—*Être hors de combat* = To be exhausted, incapable of further fight.

Le combat finit faute de combattant = The end came through sheer exhaustion.

Comble (Subst.).—*La Bastille fut détruite de fond en comble* = The Bastille was completely destroyed, *i.e.*, from the foundation to the roof.

Ils sont ruinés de fond en comble = They are utterly ruined.

Cela peut s'appeler le comble de la déveine = This may be called the height of ill-luck.

Au comble du malheur, que peut-on redouter ? = [GRESSET.]

In the depth of misfortune, what more can be dreaded?

Elle a mis le comble à ses bontés = She has filled the measure of her kindnesses.

Pour comble de malheur, il perdit sa position = To complete his misery, he lost his ~~situation.~~

C'est un comble = That crowns all. That is the finishing stroke.

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* *Colin-Tampon* seems to have been a nickname formerly given to the Swiss Guards, the word being supposed to represent the sound of their drums.

Comble (Adj.).—*La mesure est comble* = The measure of his iniquities is overflowing.

La salle était comble = The hall was crowded.

Comédie.—*C'est une comédie* = It is a complete farce.

Partout où il va, il donne ~~la comédie~~ = ~~He makes himself ridiculous everywhere.~~

Comité.—*Nous avons diné en petit comité* = We had a private dinner-party of intimate friends.

Commande.—*C'est un ouvrage fait sur commande* = It is a work made to order.

Commander.—*L'homme doit commander à ses passions* = Man should master his passions.

Il commande à la baguette = He is very imperious.

La Tour Eiffel commande tout Paris = The Eiffel Tower overlooks all Paris.

se Commander.—*L'inspiration ne se commande pas* = [MÉRIMÉE.] Inspiration must come of itself.

Comme.—*Comment allez-vous?—Comme cela* = How are you?—Pretty well.

J'étais comme mort = I was almost dead.

Il n'est pas précisément perdu, mais c'est tout comme = It is not absolutely all over with him, but ~~it is all but~~.

C'est comme qui dirait de Paris à Rouen = It is as it were from Paris to Rouen.

Il l'a fait, Dieu sait comme = He did it, after a fashion.

Je lui ai expliqué comme quoi la chose était impossible = I explained to him ~~how it was the thing could not be~~.

Comme on fait son lit on se couche = As you make your bed, so you must lie.

Commencement.—*Il y a commencement à tout* = Everything ~~must have~~ a beginning.

Heureux commencement est la moitié de l'œuvre = A good beginning is half the battle.

Commencer.—*N'a pas fait qui commence* = To begin is not everything.

A moitié fait qui commence bien = Well begun, half ended.

Comment.—*Vous voulez toujours savoir le pourquoi et le comment* = You always want to know the why and the wherefore.

Comment donc? Mais certainement = How so? Why, of course.

Commentaire.—*Cela se passe de commentaires* = The case speaks for itself.

Point de commentaires, s'il vous plaît = No impertinent remarks, if you please.

Commerce.—*Ce sont de braves gens d'un commerce sûr* = They are worthy people, whose discretion may be relied upon.

Il cherche à céder son fonds de commerce = He is trying to part with his business.

Commère.—*Tout se fait, tout va par compère et par commère* = Everything is done by favour, by recommendation.

Le monde ne se gouverne que par compère et par commère = [FRÉDÉRIC II.]

The world is entirely ruled by personal considerations.

Commis.—*Commis voyageur* = A commercial traveller.

Commode.—*Il n'est pas toujours commode* = He is not always comeatable, well-disposed.

Voilà qui est commode [ironically] = Well, that's very cool!

Commun.—*Le commun des mortels* = The generality of men.

D'un commun accord = By common consent.

D'une commune voix = Unanimously.

Il est du commun des martyrs = There is nothing to distinguish him from the crowd.

L'âne du commun est toujours le plus mal bâté [See ÂNE] = Matters of public concern are generally the most neglected.

Qui sert au commun sert à pas un = What is everybody's business is nobody's.

Compagnie.—*Ils sont de bonne compagnie* = They are well bred.

Ne nous faussez pas compagnie = Don't break your promise to join us. Don't give us the slip.

Il vaut mieux être seul qu'en mauvaise compagnie = Better be alone than badly attended.

Il n'y a si bonne compagnie qu'il ne faille quitter = The best friends must part.

Compagnon.—*Qui a compagnon a maître* = No man can always have his own way with associates.

C'est un joyeux compagnon = He is a merry fellow.

Ils se traitent de pair à compagnon = They go cheek by jowl.

Ils ont travaillé à dépêche compagnon = They worked with careless haste.

Comparaison.—*Comparaison n'est pas raison* = A comparison proves nothing.

Compas.—*Il a le compas dans l'œil* = He has a good eye for distances.

Ils font tout par règle et par compas = They are very particular. They do everything by rule and compass.

Compère.—*C'est un rusé compère* = He is a cunning dog.

Compliment.—*Je vous en fais mon compliment* [ironical] = I wish you joy.

Composition.—*Il est enfin venu à composition* = He at last came to terms.

Compote.—*Le malheureux avait les yeux en compote* = The wretched fellow's eyes were black and blue.

Comptant.—*Argent comptant* = Ready money.

D'abord, l'argent en main, paye, et vite et comptant = [Boileau, *Satires.*]

First of all, with your money in hand, pay quickly and ready money.

Compte.—*J'ai mon compte* = I have my due.

Son compte est réglé = He is done for.

Vous y trouverez votre compte = You will find it to your advantage.

À bon compte = At a small cost. On easy terms.

Cela fera un compte rond = It will make even money.

Vous êtes fort loin de compte = You are quite out in your reckoning.

Le compte est arrêté = The account is agreed upon.

Rendez-vous bien compte qu'en donnant aux mendiants des rues, vous ne faites pas la charité, mais le contraire de la charité = Just understand this, that in giving alms to the beggars in the streets, you are not practising charity, but you are doing the reverse of it.

Au bout du compte = After all. Upon the whole.

Erreur n'est pas compte = Errors excepted.

À tout bon compte revenir = One has a right to control an account, *i.e.*, to go again over it.

Ils opèrent de compte à demi = They are partners in the enterprise.

À chacun son compte = To every one his due.

Cela ne faisait pas leur compte = That did not answer their purpose.

Il y en a vingt, tous comptes faits = There are twenty of them, in reckoning accurately, all told.

Il faut tenir compte de l'inexpérience de la jeunesse = We must take into account make allowance for the inexperience of youth.

Il ne tient ni compte ni mesure = He leaves everything at sixes and sevens.

Je prends cela sur mon compte = I hold myself responsible for that.

Vous m'en rendrez compte = You shall answer for it.

Je sais à quoi m'en tenir sur son compte = I know what to think of him.

Le prince fait grand compte de lui = The prince values him very much.

Il faut leur rendre compte de tout = One must account to them for everything.

À ce compte-là = Such being the case.

Pour solde de compte = In settlement of account.

Mettez cela en ligne de compte = Take that into account.

Les bons comptes font les bons amis = Short reckonings make long friends.

Je voulais me rendre compte de l'affaire = I wanted to get a clear idea of the case.

Compté.—*Marcher à pas comptés* = To walk with measured steps, deliberately.

Tout compté, tout rabattu = After careful investigation.

Brebis comptées, le loup les mange = In spite of careful reckoning, one gets robbed.

Compter.—*A compter de demain* = From to-morrow. Beginning from to-morrow.

On lui compte les morceaux = They only give him the strictly necessary.

Nous comptons partir demain = We propose setting out to-morrow.

Qui compte sans son hôte compte deux fois = He who reckons without his host, must reckon over again. Count not your chickens before they are hatched.

se Concevoir.—*Cela se conçoit* = That is easily accounted for.

Concourir.—*Tout concourt à sa ruine* = Everything conspires to his ruin.

Concurrence.—*Je me suis porté caution pour lui jusqu'à concurrence de dix mille francs* = I became security for him to the extent of ten thousand francs.

Condamnation.—*Condamnation par défaut* = Judgment by default.

Condamner.—*J'ai l'intention de condamner cette porte et cette fenêtre* = I intend to have this door nailed up, and this window blocked up.

Condition.—*Le "Bon Marché" et les "Magasins du Louvre" livrent très-obligeamment leurs marchandises à condition* = The "Bon Marché" and the "Magasins du Louvre" most obligingly deliver their goods on condition of their being taken back if not approved.

"Conditionnel." *—*Le bruit court que la forteresse aurait*

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* This idiomatic use of the conditional, which I have never seen alluded to in any educational work, is very peculiar. It implies a doubt in the accuracy of a report, or in the probability of a surmise.

Filippo concourrait? [COPPÉE.]
Is it possible that F. will compete?

On the other hand, in the rendering of English into French, the

été emportée d'assaut = There is a rumour that the fortress has been carried by storm.

Ferait-elle des vœux pour mon succès? = [COPPÉE.] Can it be that she is anxious for my success?

Conduire.—*Permettez-moi de vous conduire jusque chez vous* = Allow me to see you home.

Il conduit bien sa barque = He manages his affairs well.

Il conduït la barque = It is he who directs the concern.

Conduisez monsieur au salon = Show the gentleman to the drawing-room.

Il sait très-bien conduire = He is a very good whip.

Il conduit à grandes guides = He drives four-in-hand.

Elle conduit à deux et à quatre = She drives a pair and a four-in-hand.

Conduite.—*Nous vous ferons tous la conduite* = We shall all see you off.

Confesser.—*Une faute confessée est à demi pardonnée* = A fault confessed is half forgiven.

C'est le diable à confesser = It is a very hard job.

Confession.—*On lui donnerait le bon Dieu sans confession* = He looks so innocent, one would trust him to any extent.

se Confirmer.—*Il y a de l'espoir : le mieux se confirme* = There is hope: he continues to get better.

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conditional is rationally substituted for the preterite, which, in certain English constructions, presents a striking anomaly. For instance, being given this sentence: "A prize had been offered to the first man who *detected* a crocodile," the English preterite "detected" must be replaced in French by the conditional, the only tense which can be held correct here: "Un prix avait été offert au premier marin qui *découvrirait* un crocodile." Again, in a sentence like this: "You had promised to look me up the next time you *came* this way," the preterite "came" is undoubtedly illogical, and in French we must say: "Vous aviez promis de venir me voir la prochaine fois que vous *passeriez* par ici." The conditional is meant—the conditional must be used. There should be concordancy between the *time* implied and the *tense* employed.

In the same way, a sentence like this: "Think of it when next you *write*" must be rendered: Pensez-y la prochaine fois que vous *écrirez*. The future is meant—the future must be used.

Confondre.—*Il ne faut pas confondre autour avec alentour* (familiar) = One must not mix up two things entirely different.

Congé.—*Il a donné congé* = He has given warning.

Il a reçu congé = He has received notice to quit.

Congru.—*Elle en est réduite à la portion congrue* = She is reduced to a meagre pittance.

Conjurer.—*Pour conjurer le danger* = To ward off the danger.

Connaissance.—*En connaissance de cause* = With a thorough knowledge of the matter.

Nous nous trouvions en pays de connaissance = We were among old acquaintances.

Elle perdit connaissance = She fainted.

Connaître.—*Il est connu comme le loup blanc* = Everybody knows him.

Je ne le connais ni d'Ève, ni d'Adam = He is quite a stranger to me.

Il gagne à être connu = He improves on acquaintance.

Tous les articles sont marqués en chiffres connus = All articles are marked in plain figures.

Connu! = You needn't tell me! That's an old story! That won't do!

La botanique, ça me connaît (familiar) = I am at home in botany, I know something about it.

se Connaître.—*Je m'y connais* = I know what I am about.

Vous connaissez-vous en chevaux? = Are you a judge of horse-flesh? Are you a connoisseur in horse-flesh?

Il ne se connaissait plus = He was beside himself.

Conseil.—*La nuit porte conseil* = Take counsel of your pillow.

À parti pris pas de conseil = Advice is useless to one who has made up his mind.

À chose faite conseil pris = Advice after the deed is done is superfluous.

Cet homme a bientôt assemblé son conseil = That man acts on his own impulse.

Conseiller.—*Aimez qu'on vous conseille, et non pas qu'on vous loue* = [BOILEAU.]
Seek advice, not praise.

Conseilleur.—*Les conseilleurs ne sont pas les payeurs* = It is one thing to give advice, it is quite another to take the responsibility.

Consentir.—*Qui ne dit mot consent* = Silence gives consent.

Conséquence.—*Cela ne tire pas à conséquence* = That is of no consequence.

Sa légèreté ne tire pas à conséquence = Her giddiness is innocent enough.

Cela ne doit pas tirer à conséquence = That must not be quoted as a precedent.

Consigne.—*Mettez votre bagage à la consigne* = Leave your luggage in the cloak-room.

Consigner.—*Les troupes sont consignées* = The troops are confined in their barracks.

Je l'ai consigné à ma porte = I have given orders not to let him in.

Contact.—*Il vous faut prendre contact avec vos électeurs* = You must put yourself in touch with your electors.

Conte.—*Un conte à dormir debout* = A silly story—an old woman's tale.

Un conte de ma Mère l'Oie = A Mother Goose's tale.

Contenance.—*Ne perdez pas contenance* = Do not be abashed.

Ne lui faites pas perdre contenance = Don't put her out of countenance.

Sa contenance était si bonne, que je résolus aussi, moi, de faire bonne contenance = [VICTOR HUGO.]
His face was so good that I too resolved to put a good face upon the matter.

Contentement.—*Contentement passe richesse* = Content is beyond riches.

Contenter.—*On ne saurait contenter tout le monde et son père* = One cannot please all the world and his wife.

Conter.—*Vous nous en contez de belles* = You are trifling with us; you are telling us fine stories.

—*C'est un malin à qui on n'en conte pas* = He is a sharp fellow, not to be taken in.

Contrat.—*Le contrat de mariage est rédigé* = The marriage articles are drawn up.

Contre.—*Je le défendrai envers et contre tous* = I ~~will~~ defend him against ~~all comers~~.

—*Il y a du pour et du contre* = Much may be said pro and con.

Contre-partie.—*Quoi qu'on lui dise, il prend toujours la contre-partie* = He always misconstrues what is said to him.

Contre-pied.—*Il a pris justement le contre-pied* = He ~~has done exactly the reverse~~.

Contrôle.—*Il a été rayé des contrôles* = He was struck out of the lists.

Contrôler.—*Ce bijou n'est pas contrôlé* = This jewel is not hall-marked.

Converti.—*Vous prêchez un converti* = You are trying to persuade a man already convinced.

Coq.—*Il est heureux comme un coq en pâte* = He is in clover [literally, like a cock that is being fattened]. He is as happy as a fighting cock.

—*Il était rouge comme un coq* = He was as red as a turkey-cock.

C'est le coq du village = He is the cock of the walk.

Des coq-à-l'âne = Cock and bull stories.

Coqueluche.*—*Il est la coqueluche des femmes* = He is the favourite of the sex.

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* *Être la coqueluche de la cour, de la ville, du quartier, du théâtre,* to be a great favourite at court, in town, in the district, or among the habitual frequenters of the theatre.

The coqueluchon or coqueluche was a kind of hood very generally worn at certain periods of the year, which seems to have given its name to the hooping-cough, because those who were attacked by that illness wore a coqueluche or monk's hood to keep their head warm. The wearing of this hood soon spread, and became an article of fashion,

Coquerico.—*Entendez-vous l'éternel coquerico de ce fat?* = Do you hear that fop's everlasting cock-a-doodle-do?

Coquetterie.—*Il est en coquetterie réglée avec ce parti* = He is regularly coquetting with that party.

Coquille.—*Les hommes les plus défiants ont souvent des coquilles sur les yeux* = The most mistrustful men are often stone-blind.

—*Il est rentré dans sa coquille* = He drew in his horns.

Il ne fait que sortir de sa coquille = He is very young—hardly out of his egg's shell.

À qui vendez-vous vos coquilles? = Do not flatter yourself that you will do me.

Portez à d'autres vos coquilles = No tricks upon travellers.

Il fait bien valoir ses coquilles = He makes the best of his merit.

Il ne donne pas ses coquilles = He does not give away his goods.

Je vois plusieurs coquilles sur cette épreuve = I see several wrong letters on this (printer's) proof.

Les traducteurs étrangers nous donnent parfois d'amusantes coquilles * = Foreign translators sometimes favour us with amusing blunders.

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especially amongst women, and thus it came to be said of a man who is a general favourite with the fair sex, that "toutes les femmes en sont coiffées," and that he is their "coqueluche." See higher up the footnote on "Coiffé."

* A long list might be drawn up of blunders in translations from one language into another. Two samples are given farther on in the footnotes on "Mieux" and "Montre." But for that matter, natives are also apt to amuse us occasionally with the queerest blunders, as for instance, when the late celebrated French critic, J. J., spoke of the lobster as *le cardinal de la mer*, forgetting for the moment, with true journalistic precipitancy, that this excellent crustacean is red only when boiled, and does not at all remind one of a Prince of the Church by its normal garb in the sea.

With regard to printer's *coquilles*, I am in a position to assert, after a very long connection as teacher or examiner with many of the leading English Public Schools, that they are mere flea-bites in comparison with the schoolboy's *coquilles*, witness, *inter multa alia*, the case of that supercilious alumnus, evidently with Tory propensities, who dismissed an Essay (?) on Horace Walpole with this laconic statement: Suffice to say that Horace Walpole was a *Wig* (*sic!*).

Coquin.—*O l'heureux coquin!* = O the lucky dog!

Cor.—*On le demandait à cor et à cri* = They were clamouring for it [literally, With horn and cry, as game is pursued].

On vous cherche à cor et à cri = They are looking for you with hue and cry.

Corde.—*Il a plusieurs cordes à son arc* = He has more than one string to his bow.

Un habit usé jusqu'à la corde = A threadbare coat.

Ce tour est usé jusqu'à la corde = That is a stale trick.

Cette excuse montre la corde = That excuse is very shallow.

Cet homme montre la corde = That man is at his last shift.

Pour le fer, c'est toujours l'Angleterre qui tient la corde = With regard to iron, England continues to lead the way.

Vous avez touché la corde sensible = You have touched the sore point.

Vous avez touché la grosse corde = You have hit the main point of the question.

Ne touchez pas à cette corde = Don't allude to that topic.

Il y allait de la corde = It was a hanging matter.

Il file sa corde = He has the gallows in his face.

Il a frisé la corde = He has had a narrow escape.

*Il a de la corde de pendu dans sa poche** = He has luck in a bag. He has the devil's own luck.

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* It would be difficult to give a satisfactory explanation of the popular notion which ascribes luck to a suicide's rope. But it is a fact that many people still adhere to that old prejudice, and, for my part, I happen to know several ladies, mostly from Eastern Europe, who always carry a small piece of *corde de pendu* in their purse, for the sake of the good luck it is supposed to confer. Indeed, a Hungarian lady once insisted on presenting me with an authentic fragment of such a cord, but I must say that I never felt the good effect of that lugubrious talisman. Perhaps the faith was wanting in me.

As an instance of the eagerness with which the superstition still prevails, we read that but a few years ago, a machinist employed at the Grand Opera having hanged himself in the basement, some of the ladies of the theatre hastened to the spot, and before a magistrate had had time to arrive, they contrived to carry away the whole of the fatal rope, for division among themselves!

Il ne faut point parler de corde dans la maison d'un pendu = One must not make remarks or statements which might be taken as a reproachful hint to persons present.

Vous verrez beau jeu, si la corde ne rompt = You shall see surprising things, if no hitch occurs.

Il va se mettre la corde au cou = He is going to ~~expose himself to great danger~~. get married.

Ils se sont rendus la corde au cou = They surrendered unconditionally.

Ce sont des gens de sac et de corde * = They are downright villains, desperate characters.

A trop tirer, la corde casse = A bow long bent at last waxeth weak.

Cordeau.—*Les rues de Turin sont tirées au cordeau* = The streets of Turin are as straight as arrows.

Cordelier.—*Il a la conscience large comme la manche d'un Cordelier* = His conscience is unscrupulously elastic [literally, as wide as a Franciscan friar's sleeve].

Aller sur la mule des Cordeliers = To travel on foot.

Il est gris comme un Cordelier † = He is as drunk as a lord.

Parler latin devant les Cordeliers = To speak with assurance on a subject one does not know before people who are well up in it.

Cordon.—*On le tient par les cordons* = He is led like a child.

Il ne délie pas volontiers les cordons de sa bourse = He does not come out readily with his money.

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* A man is said to be "de sac et de corde," to express his being capable of any foul deed deserving of capital punishment. In olden times, the criminals that had been hanged were put into a sack and cast into the sea. Hence the blending of the sack and the rope in this proverbial expression.

† This popular and of course perfectly unfounded saying—I am concerned only with the French proverb—is clearly to be traced to an unwarrantable *double entente* on the word *gris*, which means "tipsy" as well as "grey," the colour worn formerly by the Franciscans, otherwise Greyfriars. It will be allowed, however, that the next quotation, "Parler latin," &c., does justice, by way of compensation, to the classical knowledge of the Carthusian Order.



Le cordon, s'il vous plaît = The door, if you please.

Ma cuisinière est un cordon bleu * = I have a first-rate cook.

Corne.—*J'ai fait une corne à ma carte* = I turned down the corner of my visiting card.

Ne faites pas de cornes à ce livre = Don't dog's-ear that book.

Corneille.—*Allons, vous, vous rêvez, et bayez aux corneilles* = [MOLIÈRE.]

Come, you there, you are dreaming and gaping in the air.

Corner.—*On le lui a assez corné aux oreilles* = It was dinned enough into his ears.

Les oreilles ont dû bien vous corner = Your ears must have tingled.

Cornichon. — *On a été jusqu'à le traiter de cornichon* [familiar] = They went so far as to call him a greenhorn.

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* As it has been philosophically remarked, it is a striking instance of the uncertainty of human things that the word *cordon bleu*, with its ancient noble associations, should have completely disappeared from our institutions and our language, to be preserved only as a flattering epithet for a skilful cook.

The "Blue Ribbon" referred originally to the most exalted Order of the Holy Ghost, created in 1578 by King Henri III., and blended by His Majesty with the Order of St. Michael, which had been founded in 1469 by Louis XI. That very exclusive Order consisted only of one hundred members, and the King of France was its Grand-Master. The ribbon was worn slung over the left shoulder, and the Knights were generally spoken of as *Cordons bleus*, whilst the Knights of the Order of St. Louis were called *Cordons rouges*.

This blue ribbon being a most special distinction [very different in every respect from certain ribbons, red, violet, and so forth, that adorn the coat, and overcoat too, of so many of our contemporaries of all nationalities and professions], and being reserved for a very limited number of personages who occupied a high rank in French society, the custom was eventually introduced of giving, by analogy, the name of *Cordon bleu* to individuals of superior merit, down to professional cooks. And thus it has come to pass that, whilst the most noble Order of the Holy Ghost, after having been abolished at the Great Revolution, and re-established at the Restoration in 1815, finally disappeared in 1830, the designation of "Cordon bleu" has survived amongst the adepts of Vatel, Carême, and Brillat-Savarin.

Corps.—*J'ai le corps brisé, moulu* = I feel knocked up, exhausted.
Je prends trop de corps = I am getting too stout.
Ils ont lutté corps à corps = They fought hand to hand.
Il s'est élancé à corps perdu = He rushed headlong.
Il s'est jeté à corps perdu dans cette affaire = He threw himself with might and main into that enterprise.
À bras le corps = Round the waist.
C'est un drôle de corps = He is a queer fellow.
Je l'ai fait à mon corps défendant = I did it ~~reluctantly,~~ in self-defence.
J'ai voulu voir ce qu'il avait dans le corps = I wanted to see what he was made of.
Il faut avoir le diable au corps pour faire cela = A man must have the very devil in him to do anything of the kind.
Le navire s'est perdu corps et biens = The ship was entirely lost, crew and cargo.
Ce vin-là a du corps, celui-ci n'en a pas = That wine is full-bodied, this is thin.
Il a rejoint son corps = He has rejoined his regiment.
Esprit de corps = ~~Corporate spirit.~~ Party spirit.
Repas de corps = A corporation banquet.
Contrainte par corps = Arrest for debt.

Correction.—*Sauf correction* = Under correction.

Corrompre.—
Fi du plaisir
Que la crainte peut corrompre ! =
[LA FONTAINE.]
Away with the pleasure that fear can mar !

Corsaire.—*A corsaire, corsaire et demi* = Set a thief to catch a thief.
Corsaires à corsaires,
L'un l'autre s'attaquant ne font pas leurs affaires =
[RÉGNIER.]
There is honour among thieves.

Corvéable.—*Le peuple français n'est plus corvéable* = The French people are no longer liable to contribution in forced labour.

Corvée.—*Quelle corvée !* = What a disagreeable job ! What a bore !
Je suis de corvée = I am on fatigue-duty.

Cote.—*Nous avons fait une cote mal taillée* = We compromised matters by mutual agreement.

Côte.—*Il faut que vous lui serriez les côtes* = You must press him close.

Il se fera rompre les côtes = He will get his bones broken.

Que voulez-vous donc dire avec votre gentilhomme? Est-ce que nous sommes, nous autres, de la côte de St. Louis? = [MOLIÈRE.]

What do you mean with your nobleman? Are *we* sprung from the loins of St. Louis?

Nous nous tenions les côtes de rire, tant la chose était drôle = The thing was so funny that we split our sides with laughing.

Je rêvais cette nuit que de mal consumé
Côte à côte d'un pauvre on m'avait inhumé =

[PIERRE DE PATRIS.]

I dreamt last night that having been consumed by disease, I was buried side by side with a pauper.

La maison est à mi-côte = The house stands half-way up the hill.

Côté.—*Le navire est sur le côté* = The ship is stranded.

À eux quatre, ils ont mis dix bouteilles de vin sur le côté = Between the four, they emptied ten bottles of wine.

Vous prenez tout du mauvais côté = You take everything in bad part.

De ce côté-là, je suis tranquille = I feel easy on that score.

Ils ont mis les rieurs de leur côté = They brought the laughers on their side. They turned the laugh against the other party.

Mettez-le à côté = Put it by the side.

Mettez-le de côté = Put it by. Lay it aside.

Coton.—*N'élevez pas vos enfants dans du coton, ou vous vous en repentirez* = Don't bring up your children in lavender, or you will have cause to repent.

Son fils jette [or *file*] *un mauvais coton* = His son is in a bad way.

Cou.—*On leur met la bride sur le cou* = They are allowed their own course.

Elle se jette au cou de tout le monde = She makes friends easily.

Il se mettrait dans l'eau jusqu'au cou pour ses amis = He would go any length and run any risk to oblige his friends.

Il a pris ses jambes à son cou = He took to his heels.

Coucher.—*Il m'a couché en joue* = He aimed at me.

Nous avons couché à la belle étoile = We slept in the open air.

Nous avons couché sur la dure = We lay on the bare ground.

La vieille dame se couche comme les poules = The old lady goes to bed very early.

Il couche souvent dans son fourreau = He often goes to sleep without undressing.

Comme on fait son lit, on se couche = As you make your bed, so you must lie on it.

Se coucher tôt, se lever tôt, donne santé, richesse et sagesse =

Early to bed, early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

[FRANKLIN.]

Coucheur.—*C'est un mauvais coucheur* = He is a disagreeable, bad-tempered fellow.

Coude.—*Il lève* (or, *hausse*) *volontiers le coude* = He is a tippler.

Quand on a mal aux yeux, il n'y faut toucher que du coude = One must not touch one's eyes when they are sore.

Que tous les intéressés se sentent les coudes = It behoves all the interested parties to put their heads together.

Coudée.—*On lui a laissé ses coudées franches* = They gave him full liberty to act as he pleased.

La comédie classique était charmante quand elle avait ses coudées franches = [NODIER.]

Classic comedy was charming when it had no trammels.

Coudre.—*Coudre la peau du renard à celle du lion* = To join the fox's tail to the lion's skin.

Ses finesses sont cousues de fil blanc = His trickery is very transparent.

Coulant.—*Il est très coulant* = He is very accommodating.

Couler.—*Ils se la coulent douce* [elliptical for, *ils coulent une existence douce*] = They take things easy. They lead an easy life.

Vos chandelles coulent = Your candles gutter.

Il a la parole facile; cela coule de source = He is a good speaker; he has a flow of words at his command.

Cette malheureuse entreprise les a coulés à fond = That unlucky undertaking has been their ruin.

Il coulera bien de l'eau sous le pont d'ici là = We shall have to wait a pretty long time until then.

Couleur.—*Il en juge comme un aveugle des couleurs* = He judges of that as a blind man judges of colours.

Couleuvre.—*On leur a fait avaler bien des couleuvres* = They have had to put up with many indignities.

Coulisse.—*Le crocodile me faisait des yeux en coulisse* = The crocodile looked askance at me.

Coup.—*Il n'y a plus qu'un coup de collier à donner* = There is only one last effort to make.

Un coup de dents = A bite.

Donnez-nous un coup d'épaule = Give us a lift. Put your shoulder to the wheel.

Mes pareils à deux fois ne se font point connaître,
Et pour leur coup d'essai veulent des coups de maître =
[CORNEILLE, *Le Cid.*]

Youths like me do not require two occasions to make themselves known, and they take care that their first stroke shall be a master-stroke.

Quelque chose de pensif, comme ces petites servantes d'auberge des tableaux flamands, qui donnent le coup d'étrier à un voyageur à larges bottes =
[A. DE MUSSET, *Fantasio.*]

Something pensive, like those small inn-servants of Flemish pictures, who give the stirrup-cup to a large-booted traveller.

Ç'a été le coup de grâce = It proved the finishing stroke.

Un vrai coup de hasard = A regular fluke.

Je vous donnerai un coup de main = I'll ~~lend~~ you a helping hand.

Il a, je crois, un léger coup de marteau = He is, I think, slightly cracked.

Voilà ce qui s'appelle un coup de maître = ~~This is~~ what is called a master-stroke.

Ce ne sont pas là les larges coups d'aile de Bossuet = [SAINTE-BEUVE.]

This is not the towering flight of Bossuet.

Le coup d'œil du Cap Martin est incomparable = The panorama from Cape Martin is matchless.

Un coup d'œil suffit généralement en matière de discipline = A glance is enough generally to ensure discipline.

Un coup d'œil d'intelligence = A knowing wink.

La pantomime sans gifles et sans coups de pied ne peut pas aller loin = [F. SARCEY.]

A pantomime cannot go far without boxes on the ears and kicks.

Vous avez fait là un coup de tête = You have done a rash deed.

Le coup de feu est entre sept et huit heures = ~~The busy time, the bustle, is between seven and eight o'clock~~.

Elle entra en coup de vent = She rushed in like a hurricane.

Au coup de minuit = As it struck twelve.

Nous ferons d'une pierre deux coups = We shall kill two birds with one stone.

C'était un coup monté = It was a ~~preconcerted~~ attack.

Le coup vaut l'argent = It is worth trying.

Attendez-vous de sa part à quelque coup de langue, à quelque coup de patte = You may expect some sarcastic remark from her.

Elle vous portera un coup fourré = She will strike you in the dark. She will give you a sly kick.

Il était aux cent coups = He was dreadfully ~~excited~~.

Il fera les cent coups = He will play all sorts of tricks.

Il parie à coup sûr = He wagers without risk.
Un coup qui porte = A home thrust.
Il a fait là un joli coup [ironical] = That is nice of him, very.
Je perds à tous coups = I lose every time.
Il a réussi du premier coup = He succeeded from the very first.
Il ne manque jamais son coup = He never misses his aim.
Encore un coup, je ne le veux pas = Once more, I won't have it.
Coup sur coup = Time after time. In succession.
Il est sous le coup d'une saisie = He is threatened with an execution.
Le malheureux a été tué du coup = The unfortunate man was killed on the spot.
Il est mort d'un coup de sang = He died of an apoplectic fit.
Il avait bu un coup de trop = He had had a drop too much.
Sans coup férir = Without striking a blow.
Un coup de foudre = A thunderbolt.
Donnez un coup de brosse à mes vêtements = Give my clothes a brushing.
La dépêche est arrivée après coup = The telegram came after the event.

Quand ce grand ouvrier, qui savait comme on fonde,
Eut, à coups de cognée, à peu près fait le monde,
Selon le songe qu'il rêvait.

[VICTOR HUGO, *Napoléon II.*]

When this great workman, who knew how to build, had hewn the world almost according to his fancy.

Pour le coup, c'est bien fini = This time it is quite over.

Coupe.—*De la coupe aux lèvres il y a loin* =
'Twixt the cup and the lip
There is many a slip.

Les cambrioleurs mettent les poulaillers de notre voisinage en coupe réglée = The burglars lay regularly under contribution the poultry-houses in our neighbourhood.

Il y a des coupes sombres à faire dans notre écrasant budget = Large reductions are required in our crushing budget.

Couper.—*Cela vous coupe la respiration* = It takes your breath away.

Pourquoi me coupez-vous la parole? = Why do you interrupt me?

On lui a coupé les vivres = His allowance was stopped.

Nous ne buvons que du vin coupé = We only drink wine diluted with water.

Les sanglots lui coupaient la voix = Sobs stopped her utterance.

Cour.—*Il y a long-temps qu'il lui fait la cour* = He has long been courting her.

Courage.—*J'ai pris mon courage à deux mains* = I summoned up all my courage.

Courage! ce sera bientôt fini = Be brave! Be of good cheer! It will soon be over.

Courant.—*Il est au courant de l'affaire* = He knows all about the matter.

Je vous tiendrai au courant de tous les détails = I will keep you acquainted with all the particulars.

Fin courant = At the end of the present month.

Courir.—*Par le temps et les hommes qui courent* = As times and men go.

C'est un conférencier très-couru = He is a very popular lecturer.

Le bruit court que . . . = There is a rumour that . . .

C'est vous qui avez fait courir ces bruits = It is you who spread those reports.

Ils courent tous deux le même lièvre = They are both engaged in the same pursuit.

Le voleur court encore = The thief is still at large.

Cela dit, Maître Loup s'enfuit, et court encore = [LA FONTAINE.]

Having said that, Master Wolf ran away, never to return.

Couronne.—*Domaine de la Couronne* = Crown-lands.

Courrier.—*Veuillez répondre par retour du courrier* = Please to reply by return of post.

J'étais en train de faire mon courrier = I was busy writing my letters for post.

Courroie.—*On a été obligé de lui serrer la courroie* = They were obliged to curtail his supplies.

Cours.—*Les pièces d'argent italiennes n'ont plus cours* = The Italian silver coins are no longer legal tender.

Premier, dernier cours de la Bourse = Opening, closing prices on the Stock Exchange.

Capitaine au long cours = Captain of a merchant vessel.

Telles sont les idées qui ont cours dans certains milieux = Such are the ideas that prevail in certain circles.

Course.—*Course au clocher* = Steeplechase.

J'ai des courses à faire = I have to go on errands.

Cocher, je vous prends à l'heure, et non à la course = Coachman, I take you by the hour, not by the drive.

Court.—*Elle se trouva bientôt à court de fonds* = She soon found herself short of cash.

J'ai coupé court à toutes ses réclamations = I put a stop to all her complaints.

Le Directeur, pris de court, a monté en hâte une pièce nouvelle = [F. SARCEY.]

The manager, being driven into a corner, hastily got up another play.

Il s'en est retourné avec sa courte honte = He came back as he had gone.

Il sait le court et le long de l'affaire = He knows the ins and outs of the case.

À vaillant homme courte épée = A brave man needs no long sword.

Légère et court-vêtue, elle allait à grands pas = [LA FONTAINE.]

Light-footed and short-dressed, she was stepping along smartly.

Cousin.—*Nous ne sommes pas précisément cousins* = We are not the best friends in the world.

Si pareille chose m'arrivait, le roi ne serait pas mon cousin = Should such a thing befall me, I would not call the king my cousin.

Cousu.—*Il est tout cousu d'or* = He rolls in wealth.

Coût.—*Le coût fait perdre le goût* = The cost takes away the appetite.

Coûtant.—*Je vous le laisse au prix coûtant* = I ~~leave it to you~~ at cost price, ~~at prime cost.~~

Couteau.—*Ils sont à couteaux tirés* = ~~They are at drawn daggers~~.

On vous en donnera des petits couteaux pour les perdre! = Don't you wish you may get it!—*Said to children who are asking for what they must not have.*

Aller en Flandre sans couteau = To undertake a thing without sufficient preparation.

Coûter.—*Il n'y a que le premier pas qui coûte* = ~~The difficulty lies in the beginning~~.

Rien ne lui coûte pour obliger un ami = He spares no pains to oblige a friend.

Tout lui coûte = Everything is an effort for him.

Il m'en coûte de vous refuser cela = It is painful to me to deny you that.

Coûte que coûte * = At any cost. Let it cost what it may.

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* I cannot but deplore here the barbarisms too frequently committed by English people who ought to know better, when quoting French phrases.

It so happens that only a few days ago, I read in the *Temps* the following statement from a distinguished literary critic (àpropos of Mrs. Thackeray Ritchie's *Chapters from some Memoirs*): "Pour être vieille de plus de cent ans, on dirait que cette malheureuse manie de citations françaises ne fait, en Angleterre, que se développer; malheureuse, parce qu'on dirait que se développe en même temps l'incapacité foncière des Anglais à citer une phrase française tout-à-fait correctement."

Far be it from me to endorse fully this sweeping indictment. But still it must be admitted that there is too much cause for a charge of the kind. Take "Coûte que coûte," for instance. It stands clearly for "Que cela coûte *ce que* cela pourra coûter." *Que* is, so to speak, in the accusative case. What can "Coûte *qui* coûte" possibly mean? It certainly defies all analytical construction, and yet the barbarism is constantly to be met with in English writings.

To the same class belongs the offensive expression, "Double *entendre*,"

Coutume.—*Une fois n'est pas coutume* = It is only for once; One swallow does not make a summer.

C'est la coutume de Paris, où le battu paie l'amende * = The victim is condemned in the bargain.

Coutumier.—*Il est coutumier du fait, il n'en fait jamais d'autres* = He is an old offender (this is just like him).

Couture.—*Ils ont été battus à plate couture* = They were totally routed.

Il a besoin qu'on lui rabatte les coutures = He is an upstart fellow who wants taking down.

Couver.—*Elle couve des yeux son enfant* = She dotes on her child.

Couvert.—*Le couvert est mis* = The cloth is laid

Ôtez le couvert = Remove the cloth.

Votre couvert sera toujours mis à ma table = There will always be a knife and fork for you at my table.

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instead of "Double *entente*." But I prefer bringing in Mr. W. H. Pollock, who in his few notes on Alfred de Musset's *Fantasio*, thus protests against the common, and I fear incurable, English blunder: "*Double entente*. Note this," says Mr. Pollock, "as a warning against the vile phrase *double entendre*, which is constantly used by English writers, and which is neither French nor English, nor anything else but a monstrously base coinage, which has somehow become current."—*Clarendon Press Series:* ALFRED DE MUSSET'S *On ne badine pas avec l'Amour*, &c., p. 135.

Again, I would refer the reader to the protest I feel bound to enter farther on, in a foot-note on the word *Moral*, which is so commonly disfigured with a final *e* in English books and newspapers. I omit several other grievous blunders, and I say nothing of "à *l*'outrance," which perhaps might claim the benefit of an archaism as against the only correct modern form "à outrance."

* This proverb, *Le battu paye l'amende*, according to an ingenious version, may be traced to a play on words: To a party accused of an assault on the plaintiff, the judge says, *Le bas-tu? Paye l'amende.* This conundrum, however, does not seem to me to afford a sufficiently dignified explanation. I prefer, with M. Rozan, to ascribe the origin of this proverb to the practice that prevailed in the so-called "good old times" of settling a trial, in doubtful cases, by a *combat judiciaire.* A fight was arranged between the contending parties, and right was invariably assumed to be on the side of the conqueror. That "judgment of God," as it was most improperly called, decided your fate. You had got the worst of the fight, therefore you were clearly the culprit, according to the providential verdict, and must pay the fine or undergo the punishment.

Nous nous sommes mis à couvert = We got under shelter.
Mots couverts = Ambiguous terms.
Un propriétaire est obligé de tenir son locataire clos et couvert = A landlord is bound to keep his tenant's house well closed and well roofed.

Couverture.—*Chacun tire la couverture à soi* = Every one rakes the embers to his own cake [or, as the Italians have it: Every one draws the water to his own mill].
Il sait tirer la couverture à lui = He knows how to take care of himself.
Méfiez-vous des coulissiers qui vous réclament une couverture: C'est eux qui devraient en fournir une = Beware of the stock-jobbers who claim a security from you: They it is who ought to supply one.

se Couvrir.—*Le temps se couvre* = The weather is overcast.
Couvrez-vous, je vous prie = Pray, put your hat on.
Se couvrir d'un sac mouillé = To put forth a shallow excuse which rather aggravates the fault.

Craché.— *L'esprit le plus bouché*
Y reconnaît mon portrait tout craché = [VOLTAIRE.]
The most blind recognise my very portrait all over.

Cran.—*Il faut baisser d'un cran, et changer de manière* = [DESTOUCHES.]
You must come down a peg and change your manner.
Dans deux jours, je serai au même cran = [E. ABOUT.]
I shall be in the same condition two days hence.

Crémaillère.—*Ils vont pendre la crémaillère* = They are about to give a house-warming.

Creux.—*J'ai trouvé buisson creux* = I found the game gone. I found no one at home.
Quel creux! = What a splendid bass voice!
Songer creux = To be in a brown study.

Crever.—*Ces gens crèvent d'orgueil* = Those people are bursting with pride.

Cela vous crève le cœur = It is heart-rending.

Ce que vous cherchez vous crève les yeux = What you are looking for is staring you in the face.

Cri.—*Elle jeta les hauts cris* = She screamed out.

Nous avons eu beau pousser des cris = We cried out, but with no effect.

*Les animaux n'exhalent qu'un cri inarticulé, aussi borné dans ses effets que dans sa nature** = Animals utter only an inarticulate cry, as limited in its effects as in its nature.

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* I have no doubt my readers will be glad to have here grouped together the technical words expressing the cries of most animals, which it is important to know:—

L'abeille, le bourdon, et la mouche *bourdonnent*.	The bee, the drone, and the fly *buzz*.
L'aigle *trompette*.	The eagle *screams*.
L'alouette *grisolle*.	The lark *warbles*.
L'âne *brait*.	The ass *brays*.
Le buffle *souffle, beugle*.	The buffalo *bellows*.
Le canard *nasille*.	The duck *snuffles*.
Le [redacted] chien *aboie*.	The dog *barks*.
Le petit chien *jappe*.	The puppy *yelps*.
La cigale *craquette*.	The grasshopper *gabbles*.
Le cochon, le pourceau *grognent*.	The pig, the hog *grunt*.
La colombe et le ramier *gémissent*.	The dove and the wood-pigeon *moan*.
Le coq *coquerico et chante*.	The cock *crows*.
Le corbeau *croasse*.	The crow *croaks*.
La grenouille *croasse*.	The frog *croaks*.
Le crocodile *lamente*.	The crocodile *whines*.
Le dindon *glougloute*.	The turkey *gabbles*.
L'éléphant *barète*.	The elephant *roars*.
L'épervier, le lapin, et le renard *glapissent*.	The lark, the rabbit, and the fox *yelp*.
Le faon *râle*.	The fawn *rattles*.
Le hibou *hue*.	The owl *hoots*.
L'hirondelle *gazouille*.	The swallow *chirps*.
Le lion *rugit*.	The lion *roars*.
Le loriot et le merle *sifflent*.	The oriole and the blackbird *whistle*.
Le moineau *pépie*.	The sparrow *chirps*.
Le paon *braille*.	The peacock *bawls*.
Le perroquet *cause*.	The parrot *talks*.
La pie *jacasse*.	The magpie *jabbers*.
Le pigeon *roucoule*.	The pigeon *coos*.

Criard.—*Il a des dettes criardes qui contrarient beaucoup sa marche* = He has dribbling debts that seriously impede his progress.

Cribler.—*Il est criblé de dettes* = He is over head and ears in debt.

Crier.—*On a crié : au secours—au voleur—au meurtre* = They called out for help—they cried out thieves—they cried out murder.

On crie : au feu = They are crying fire.

On ne manquera pas de crier au scandale = They are sure to inveigh against the scandal.

Ils crient toujours misère = They are always complaining of poverty.

A ces mots, on cria haro sur le baudet = [La Fontaine.]

At these words, a hue and cry was raised against the donkey.

Plumer la poule sans la faire crier = To fleece quietly.

Crier famine sur un tas de blé = To cry out famine in the midst of plenty.

Crin.—*C'est un fataliste à tous crins* = He is a thorough fatalist.

Critique.—*La critique est aisée, et l'art est difficile* = [Destouches.]

It is easy to criticise, but difficult to create.

Croc-en-jambe.—*Il lui a donné le croc-en-jambe* = He tried to trip him up.

Crochet.—*Il n'a pas eu honte de vivre pendant vingt ans aux crochets de son frère aîné* = He was not ashamed

La poule *glousse.*	The hen *clucks.*
Les petits poulets *piaulent.*	The young chickens *pip.*
Le rossignol *ramage.*	The nightingale *warbles.*
Le sanglier *grommelle.*	The wild boar *grunts.*
Le serpent *siffle.*	The serpent *hisses.*
Le taureau et la vache *mugissent.*	The bull and the cow *bellow.*
Le loup *hurle.*	The wolf *howls.*
Le lièvre *crie.*	The hare *squeaks.*
La brebis *bêle.*	The sheep *bleats.*
Le chat *miaule.*	The cat *mews.*
Le cheval *hennit.*	The horse *neighs.*

to live for twenty years at his eldest brother's charge.

Aller aux mûres sans crochet = To embark in an enterprise without the means of carrying it out.

Croire.—*À les en croire* = If we are to believe them.

Il s'en croit un peu trop = He thinks (rather) too much of himself.

C'est à croire que la bêtise humaine a des profondeurs encore insondées = It would lead one to believe that human stupidity remains unfathomable.

Croyez cela, et buvez de l'eau! = You may believe that if you like.

Croître.—*Nos taxes sont bien lourdes, et cela ne fait que croître et embellir* = Our taxes are very heavy, and they keep growing worse and worse.

Mauvaise herbe croît toujours = Ill weeds grow apace.

Croix.—*Il a été reçu avec la croix et la bannière* = He was received with all due honours.

Quand nous serons à six, nous ferons une croix = When we come to six, we will chalk it up.

Croque.—*Je le mangerai à la croque au sel* = I shall eat it without any dressing, with pepper and salt.

Il vous mangerait à la croque au sel = He would make a mere mouthful of you.

Une vraie figure de croque-mort = A long dismal face.

Croquer.—*Cette petite fille est gentille à croquer* = This little girl is a lovely creature.

Croupière.—*Nous leur taillerons des croupières* = We will cut out work for them.

Croûte.—*Je viendrai un de ces jours casser une croûte avec vous* = I'll come and take pot-luck with you one of these days.

Crû.—*Un de mes amis du Midi me fournit de l'excellent vin de son crû* = A friend of mine in the South of France supplies me with an excellent wine of his own growing.

Donnez-moi du vin du crû = Give me some wine of the country.

Ce bon mot n'était pas de son crû = The joke was not original.

Cru.—*Le ton de ce tableau est un peu cru* = The tone of this picture is rather crude.

Vous lui avez donné une réponse un peu crue = You gave him a rather sharp answer.

Je vais vous dire ma pensée toute crue = I will tell you plainly what I think.

Cruche.—*Tant va la cruche à l'eau qu'à la fin elle se casse* = Things will break. The pitcher goes so often to the well that it comes home broken at last.

Quelle cruche! = What a blockhead!

Crûment.—*Il m'a dit cela tout crûment* = He told me that bluntly.

Cuir.—*Pester entre cuir et chair* = To fume inwardly, *in petto.*

Faire du cuir d'autrui une large courroie = To dispense freely other people's money.

Oui, avec-t-un cuir * = Yes, with a "cuir."

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* *Faire un cuir, faire des cuirs*, may be considered the equivalent of the English dropping of the aspirate *h*, or rather its ill-treatment in point of omission or commission; but you cannot translate *Faire des cuirs* by, "To drop one's h's." The two things have absolutely no feature in common, beyond the fact that the infirmity in either case is twofold, that is, negative or positive on one side, and hard-sounding or soft-sounding on the other.

In the English case, the aspiration is *omitted* on the one hand where it is wanted, whilst on the other hand, by a queer process of compensation, it is *committed* where there is no *h* at all. I remember this double sample of cockneyism being once happily illustrated by our venerable friend Mr. Punch with its usual and, be it said to its lasting credit, its ever innocuous humour, in a little dialogue between a London barber and his client: "They say, sir, the cholera is very much about in the '*hair.*"—"I hope, then, you are very particular about the brushes you use."—"Oh! I see, sir, you don't '*hunderstand* me: I don't mean the *air* of the *ead;* I mean the '*hair* of the '*hatmosphere.*"

Now, the French "cuir" stands by itself. It consists either (A) in pronouncing a *t* instead of an *s*, or rather a *z*, between a word and the next, or (B) in sounding an *s* or *z* instead of a *t*, or again, (C) in connecting two words with either one or the other of those letters where there should be neither. *E.g.* (A) "Je suis-*t*-heureux de vous revoir" (as a late Oriental Highness very graciously said more than

Cuire.—*Vous viendrez cuire à mon four* = You will want my help some day.

La main me cuit, les yeux me cuisent = My hand smarts; my eyes smart.

Il vous en cuira = You shall smart for it.

Trop gratter cuit, trop parler nuit = The less said, the sooner mended. Lit., To scratch too much is painful, to talk too much is hurtful.

Cuisine.—*Petite cuisine agrandit la maison* = Moderation or economy in household expenses enriches a house.

Grasse cuisine fait maigre testament = A fat kitchen makes a lean will.

Soie et satin, velours, hermine, éteignent le feu de la cuisine = Silk and satin, velvet and ermine, put out the kitchen-fire.

Il est chargé de cuisine = He has a good corporation of his own.

Du latin de cuisine = Dog latin.

Culbute.—*Faire la culbute* = To tip one's heels over one's head. To tumble.

Au bout du fossé la culbute = Beware of consequences. Be prepared for the worst.

Culotte.—*C'est la femme qui porte les culottes dans cette maison* = The wife wears the breeches in this house.

Culotter.—*Votre pipe est bien culottée* = Your pipe is famously black.

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once to my humble self), instead of "Je suis-*z*-heureux, &c.;" (B) "Ils sont-*z*-allés à Paris," instead of "Ils sont-*t*-allés;" (C) "Je leur-*z*-ai dit, mon Capitaine"—the extra letter in this last is, I suppose, introduced by way of emphasising the speech with a certain swing.

It is only fair to add, however, that whether or not the dropping or misplacing of the aspirate *h* still flourishes as much as ever in London, the French *cuirs* in question seem to have become less common at the present time than I knew them to be formerly.

Moreover, before dismissing this subject (which, for aught I know, has never received the attention it deserves), I would submit that whilst any venturesome *liaison* of the above kind may fairly be called a *cuir* when its effect is harsh, as in "Il va-*t*-à Paris," it would be correct to call it a *velours*—changing the ironical "Avec-*t*-un cuir" into "Avec-*z*-un velours"—when the effect produced is soft to the ear, as in "Il va-*z*-à Paris."

Culpa.—*Voyons, faites votre mea culpa, et tout est dit* = Come, confess your sin, and there will be an end of it.

Cure.—*Il n'en a cure* = He cares nothing about it.

A beau parler qui n'a cure de bien faire = All talk and so much smoke.

On a beau parler à qui n'a cure de bien faire = Advice is wasted on one who does not mean to turn it to account.

Cuver.—*Il a été mis au violon pour cuver son vin* = He was locked up to sleep himself sober.

Cygne.*—*C'est le chant du cygne* = It is the song of the dying swan.

D.

Dada.—*C'est son dada* = It is his hobby.

Dame.—*Elle fait trop la grande dame* = She is too pretentious.

La dame de carreau = The queen of diamonds.

Jouer aux dames = To play at draughts.

Mais, dame, oui! Oh! dame, non! † = Yes, of course. Oh! no, surely not.

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* *Le Chant du Cygne* is the last work of a great poet, or the last speech of an eminent orator before his death. The expression is, after all, merely conventional, as, notwithstanding the poetical tradition which has come down to us from the days of ancient Greece, it is well known that the swan's singing, far from being melodious, is shrill and hoarse, not unlike the cry of the goose. But, for all that, Buffon, whose matchless science is so accurate, pleads mercifully for the maintenance of the tradition which was so harshly denounced by Pliny. "Swans," says the great French naturalist, "doubtless do not sing at their death; but still, in alluding to the last soaring of a fine genius about to be extinguished, one will always recall with feeling this touching expression: *C'est le Chant du Cygne!*"

Buffon's remark is in happy contrast with these satirical lines:

"Swans, they say, sing
Before they die;
'Twere a good thing
Did some folks die
Before they sing."

† A very familiar kind of interjection, perfectly harmless now, but very possibly a contraction of the old oath, *Par Notre Dame.* See farther on the note on DIANTRE.

Damer.—*Ne vous laissez pas damer le pion* = Don't allow yourself to be outwitted.

Damné.—*C'est l'âme damnée du directeur* = He is the director's tool, and does all the dirty work for him.

Danser.—*Il ne sait plus sur quel pied danser* = He no longer knows which way to turn.

Ils l'ont fait danser = They led him a pretty dance.

Date.—*Je suis le premier en date* = I have the priority.

Une amitié de vieille date = A friendship of old standing.

Dater.—*Cela ne date pas d'hier* = That is a very old story.

Dauber.—*On lui a daubé dessus* [familiar] = He got laughed at. He was jeered.

De.—*De demain en huit* = To-morrow week.

Il ne reviendra pas de quinze jours = He will not be back for a fortnight.

De quoi vivez-vous donc? = What, then, do you live upon?

Il est de l'intérêt de tous qu'il en soit ainsi = It is the interest of all that it should be so.

Et d'une, et de deux = So much for one, so much for two.

Je commence à n'y plus voir clair: l'âge vous joue de ces tours = My sight is failing: Old age plays you tricks of that kind.

C'est d'un cynisme révoltant = It is abominably cynical.

C'est d'un triste, d'un lugubre! Oh! ne m'en parlez pas. [*Effet* or *caractère* understood] = [F. Sarcey.]
It is sad, it is lugubrious to an extent . . .! Oh! don't tell me about it.

C'est d'un galant homme = It is the act of a perfect gentleman.

Et eux de rire! = And they began to laugh.

Ainsi dit le renard; et flatteurs d'applaudir = [La Fontaine.]
Thus spoke the fox, and flatterers of course took to applauding.

Dé.—*Elle tient le dé dans la conversation* = She engrosses all the conversation.

Le dé en est jeté = The die is cast.

En lui annonçant cette triste nouvelle, flattez un peu le dé = In apprising her of this sad piece of news, just soften the blow as much as possible; break it gently to her.

A vous le dé, Monsieur = It is your turn, sir.

Débandade.—*Ils mirent tout à la débandade* = They threw everything into confusion.

Tout va à la débandade = Everything is at sixes and sevens.

Ils vivent à la débandade = They squander their time.

Débarqué.—*Il a tout l'air d'un nouveau débarqué* = He has the appearance of one newly come to the place.

Débiter.—*Il débite bien sa marchandise* = He makes the best of what he has to say.

se Déboutonner.—*Il s'est tenu long-temps sur la réserve, mais il a fini par se déboutonner* = He was for a long time reserved, but at last he became communicative.

Débrider.—*J'ai toujours pu faire de longues marches en Suisse sans débrider* = I always could walk for a long time in Switzerland without stopping, at a stretch.

Débrouillard.—*Il est très débrouillard* = He knows how to get through difficulties.

se Débrouiller.—*Débrouillez-vous comme vous pourrez, je ne m'en mêle pas* = Get through that as best you can, I'll have nothing to do with it.

Déchaîné.—*C'est un vrai diable déchaîné* = He is a bad man who takes all sorts of liberties.

Il est déchaîné contre vous = He is exasperated against you.

se Déchausser.*—*Il n'est pas besoin de se déchausser pour manger cela* = There is no occasion to make any fuss to get that.

Déchirer.—*Chien hargneux a toujours l'oreille déchirée* = Quarrelsome folks always come to trouble.

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* This proverb comes from the custom of the Romans to recline barefoot at their meals.

Cette musique vous déchire les oreilles = This music is most distracting.

Il ne se fera pas déchirer le manteau pour cela = He will accept your invitation readily.

se Déclarer.—*Le choléra vient de se déclarer en Orient* = Cholera has just broken out in the East.

L'orage se déclare = [RACINE, *Athalie.*]
The storm is breaking.

Découdre.—*Ils veulent absolument en découdre* = They are bent on fighting it out.

Son style affecte le décousu = His style affects too much incoherence.

Découvrir.—*Découvrir [redacted]. Pierre pour couvrir [redacted]. Paul* = To rob Peter to enrich Paul. To steal a goose and give the giblets in alms.

En Avril, ne te découvre pas d'un fil =
April's changes thou should'st dread,
And never cast off a thread.

Décrocher.—*C'est lui qui a décroché la timbale* [*i.e.*, at the greased Maypole] = It is he who got the cake.

Costumes achetés au décrochez-moi-ça = [F. SARCEY.]
Costumes bought at a second-hand shop.

Dedans.—*Ne vous laissez pas mettre dedans* = Don't let yourself be imposed upon.

Il ne sait s'il est dedans ou dehors = He does not know how his affairs, or chances, stand.

Il est trop en dedans; je ne me fie pas à lui = He is too mysterious; I don't trust him.

se Défaire.—*J'ai dû me défaire de ces gens-là* = I had to discharge those people.

Défaites-vous de cette mauvaise habitude = Shake off this bad habit.

Défaite.—*C'était là une mauvaise défaite* = That was a bad excuse.

Ces marchandises sont de bonne défaite aux colonies = Those goods command a quick sale in the colonies.

Défaut.—*Que je ne vous prenne pas en défaut* = Don't let me catch you tripping.

Sa mémoire s'est tout-à-coup trouvée en défaut = His memory suddenly failed him.

A défaut de vin, on boit de l'eau = For want of wine one drinks water.

Vous m'attaquez au défaut de la cuirasse = You attack me on my weak point.

Les preuves font défaut = The proofs are wanting.

se Défendre.—*Je ne m'en défends pas* = I do not deny it.

L'invitation était si pressante, que je n'ai pu m'en défendre = The invitation was so pressing that I could not refuse.

Les moins défiants ne peuvent se défendre d'un léger soupçon = The least distrustful cannot refrain from a slight suspicion.

Défense.—*Mettez-vous en défense* = Stand on your guard.

Défense d'entrer = No admittance.

Défense d'afficher = Stick no bills.

Défi.—*Je vous mets au défi* = I defy you.

Défiance.—*Défiance est mère de sûreté* = Fast bind fast find.

Défier.—*Vous m'en défiez ?* = You dare me do it ?

se Défier.—*Défiez-vous en* = Do not trust it.

Définitive.—*En définitive* = After all.

se Dégourdir.—*Tu as besoin de voyager pour te dégourdir* = [*Gil Blas.*]

You want a little travelling to rub yourself up.

Dégoûter.—*Ne faites donc pas tant le dégoûté* = Do not be so squeamish.

Dehors.—*Ils ont soin de sauver les dehors* = They are careful to save appearances.

Il cache une ambition effrénée sous les dehors de la piété = He conceals an unbridled ambition under the cloak of piety.

Délit.—*On l'a pris en flagrant délit* = He was caught in the very act.

Déloger.—*Nous avons délogé sans tambour ni trompette* = We marched off in silence.

Déluge.—*Après nous le déluge !* = A short life and a merry one.

Demain.—*À demain les affaires sérieuses* = Time enough for business to-morrow. [*See* Note on AFFAIRES.]

Demander.—*Je ne demande pas mieux* = I have [redacted] the least objection.

L'hôte qui ne demandait pas mieux, se mit à l'apprêter = [*Gil Blas.*]

The innkeeper, who wished for that very thing, began to dress it.

Monsieur, on vous demande = You are wanted, Sir.

On est venu vous demander = Some one has called for you.

Démangeaison.—*Il faut qu'un galant homme ait toujours grand empire*
Sur les démangeaisons qui nous prennent d'écrire = [MOLIÈRE, *Le Misanthrope.*]

An honest man should always keep a thorough control over the temptation [literally, the itchings] to write.

Démanger.—*Les doigts, la langue, les pieds, les poings lui démangent* = He longs to write, to speak, to go out, to fight.

Démenti.—*Je ne veux pas en avoir le démenti* = It shall not be said I was baffled.

Démesuré.—*Il en a une envie démesurée* = ~~He longs dreadfully for it.~~

se Démettre.—*Il s'est démis un bras* = He put one of his arms out of joint.

Il s'est démis de son emploi = He resigned his post.

Demeurant.—*Au demeurant, bon homme* = [FLORIAN.]

A good fellow at bottom.

Demeure.—*On a mis le fameux B. en demeure de prouver ses outrageantes assertions* = The famous B. was challenged to prove his outrageous statements.

Il y a péril en la demeure = The thing brooks no delay.

Demeurer.—*J'en demeure d'accord* = I quite agree.

Demeurons-en là = ~~Let us leave off there.~~

Un grand nombre de ses hommes sont demeurés en route = Many of his men dropped off on the road.

Je ne voudrais pas demeurer en reste avec eux = I should be sorry to be behind-hand with them.

Demi.—*Ne faites jamais rien à demi* = Never do things by halves.

Il entend à demi-mot = He can take a hint.

La demie va sonner = The half-hour is going to strike.

À trompeur trompeur et demi = A biter bit. Set a thief to catch a thief.

Démordre.—*Elle n'en veut pas démordre* = She will not abate an inch.

Denier.—*A beaux deniers comptants* = In cash, in ready money.

Les deniers publics = The public money.

Le denier de St. Pierre = Peter's pence.

Le denier à Dieu = Earnest money.

Le denier de la veuve = The widow's mite.

Il a emprunté de l'argent au denier vingt, au denir dix, au denier cinq = He borrowed money at five per cent., at ten per cent., at twenty per cent.

C'est un joli denier = It is a nice little sum.

Dent.—*Nous étions sur les dents* = We were tired to death.

Elle déchire tout le monde à belles dents = She tears everybody to pieces.

Elle ne manque jamais l'occasion de lui donner un coup de dent = She never misses an opportunity of having a fling at him.

Je commence à avoir les dents bien longues = I am getting very hungry.

C'est vouloir prendre la lune avec les dents = It is aiming at impossibilities.

J'ai mangé du bout des dents = I have hardly eaten anything.

Quand on lui demande quelque chose, il semble qu'on lui arrache une dent = He is an awful miser, who can't bear parting with anything.

Elle fait ses dents = She is cutting her teeth.

Ce fruit vous agace les dents = This fruit sets one's teeth on edge.

Je vois que Votre Majesté a toujours une dent secrète contre la géométrie =

[D'ALEMBERT, *Lettre au Roi de Prusse.*]

I see that Your Majesty keeps a secret grudge against geometry.

Vous avez une dent de lait contre lui =

[MOLIÈRE, *Le Malade Imaginaire.*]

You have an old grudge (*i.e.*, that dates from your childhood) against him.

Elle a ri du bout des dents = She laughed on the wrong side of her mouth.

Son cheval a pris le mors aux dents = H~~is horse ran away~~. His horse took the bit in his teeth

J'ai une dent qui branle = I have a loose tooth.

Il lui vient du pain quand il n'a plus de dents = Fortune comes to him when he is no longer able to enjoy it.

Dépareillé.—*Prêter facilement ses livres, c'est malheureusement se condamner à avoir bien des volumes dépareillés* = To lend readily one's books is unfortunately to condemn oneself to having many odd volumes.

Déparié.—*J'ai toute une collection de gants dépariés* = I have a whole collection of odd gloves.

se Départir.—*Il n'est pas homme à se départir de son devoir* = He is not a man to shrink from his duty.

Dépayser.—*Je me sens tout dépaysé dans un pareil milieu* = I feel quite out of my element in such a circle.

Il disait cela pour nous dépayser = He said that to put us on a wrong scent.

Dépit.—*En dépit du bon sens* = Against common sense.

Déplaire.—*Ne vous en déplaise* = With all due ~~deference~~ respect to you.

Dépouiller.—*Il a dépouillé le vieil homme, le vieil Adam* = He has renounced his old habits; He has turned over a new leaf.

Dépouiller le scrutin = To ~~reckon~~ count the votes.

Dépourvu.—*J'ai été pris au dépourvu* = I was taken unawares.

Depuis.—*Depuis peu* = A short time since.

Je le connais depuis qu'il habite Londres * = I have known him since he came to live in London.

Déranger.—*Je crains de vous déranger* = I am afraid of being in your way.

Ne vous dérangez pas = Don't move. Don't trouble.

Dératé.—*Il court comme un dératé* = He runs like a greyhound.

Dernier.—*Il met la dernière main à son ouvrage* = He is putting the finishing stroke to his work.

C'est de la dernière importance = It is of the greatest importance.

C'est du dernier grotesque = It is supremely grotesque.

En dernier ressort; en dernière analyse = Ultimately.

C'est ici qu'il a rendu le dernier soupir = It was here that he breathed his last.

Dérobé.—*Un escalier dérobé* = A private staircase.

S'en aller à la dérobée = To steal away.

Il leur lança un regard à la dérobée = He glanced at them stealthily.

se Dérober.—*Il s'est dérobé aux félicitations de la foule* = He went away to escape the congratulations of the crowd.

Et mes genoux tremblants se dérobent sous moi = [RACINE.]
And my trembling knees fail under me.

se Dérouiller.—*Il a besoin de voyager pour se dérouiller* = He wants to travel to rub off his rust.

Dérouter.—*Cela vous déroute* = It is confusing.

Derrière.—*Un bon général assure toujours ses derrières* = A good general always places his rear in safety.

Je soupçonne quelque idée de derrière la tête = I suspect some secret thought.

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* The idiomatic difference of construction in rendering *depuis que* should be carefully noted. See remark on this subject in Preface.

Dès.—*Dès que l'idée vous déplaît, n'en parlons plus* = Since the idea displeases you, let us not say another word about it.

se Désaccoutumer.—*Il faudra qu'il se désaccoutume du jeu* = He will have to leave off gambling.

Désarroi.—*Tout est en désarroi dans la maison* = Everything is upside down in the house.

Descendre.—*Je descends toujours à cet hôtel* = I always put up at this hotel.

Descente.—*À grande montée grande descente* = The greater the rise the deeper the fall.

Désespoir.—*J'en suis au désespoir* = I am quite concerned about it.

En désespoir de cause = As a last shift. Hoping against hope.

Désirer.—*Sa conduite laisse à désirer* = There is room for improvement in his behaviour.

Ce travail ne laisse rien à désirer = That work is perfect.

Désorienter.—*Je suis désorienté* = I am quite at sea; thoroughly perplexed.

se Dessaisir.—*La commission s'est dessaisie de la question* = The committee gave up considering the question.

Desserré.—*Elle n'a pas desserré les dents* = She never spoke a single word.

Desservir.—*Desservez* = Take away. Clear the table.

Quelqu'un m'a desservi = Some one has done me an ill turn.

Dessiller.—*Cela m'a dessillé les yeux* = That undeceived me [lit.: unsealed my eyes].

Dessous.—*Ils ont eu le dessous* = They got the worst of it.

Il a le regard en-dessous = He looks sly.

Il les joue par-dessous jambe = He is too sharp for them.

L'affaire est pleine de dessous politiques = Political complications lurk under the question.

Il est au fait de tous les dessous de Paris = He is thoroughly acquainted with the under-currents of Paris life.

Dessus.—*Les bleus foncé ont encore eu le dessus sur la Tamise* = The dark blues have again been victorious on the Thames.

Sens dessus dessous = Topsy-turvy.

J'en ai par-dessus la tête = I am quite sick of it.

Il vous paiera par-dessus l'épaule = He will never pay you [fam. : over the left shoulder].

Il affiche des prétentions par-dessus les maisons = He puts forth exorbitant pretensions.

Voyez ci-dessus = See above.

Là-dessus il disparut = Thereupon he disappeared.

Je passe là-dessus = I say nothing about that.

Détail.—*En gros et en détail* = Wholesale and retail.

Contez-nous cela en détail = Tell us all the particulars.

Détaler.—*Vite, que l'on détale* = Quick, pack off and be gone.

Détente.—*Il est dur à la détente* [or : *à la desserre*] = He is close-fisted.

Déterré.—*Il avait l'air d'un déterré* = He looked like a corpse.

Détour.—*Parlez sans détour* = Speak frankly, plainly. Don't beat about the bush.

Nourri dans le sérail, j'en connais les détours = [RACINE.]

Brought up in the seraglio, I know all its recesses.

Nous avons pris un long détour = We went a long way round.

Détourner.—*Cela ne vous détournerait pas beaucoup* = That would not take you much out of your way.

Louange détournée = Indirect, delicate praise.

Rue détournée = A by-street.

Détraqué.—*Je le crois un peu détraqué* = I think he is rather crazy.

se Détraquer.—*Le temps se détraque* = The weather is out of order.

Détrousser.—*Voit-on les loups brigands, comme nous inhumains,*
Pour détrousser les loups courir les grands chemins? = [BOILEAU, *Satire VIII.*]
Are wolves ever seen prowling in the guise of brigands, like our cruel selves, to plunder wolves along the high-roads?

Dette.—*Il est criblé de dettes; il a des dettes par-dessus la tête* = He is over head and ears in debt.

Qui épouse la veuve épouse les dettes = One must take the good and the bad together.

Qui paie ses dettes, s'enrichit = By paying one's debts one grows richer.

Cent ans de chagrin ne paient pas un sou de dettes = Care killed the cat.

Il a payé sa dette à la nature = He has gone over to the majority.

Deuil.—*J'en ai fait mon deuil* = I have resigned myself to the loss.

Prendre le deuil = To go into mourning.

Mener le deuil = To be chief mourner.

Deux.—*De deux années l'une* = Every other year.

Je n'en ai fait ni un ni deux = I decided at once.

À deux mains = With both hands.

C'est à deux pas d'ici = It is but a few steps from here.

Nous avions vingt francs à nous deux = We had twenty francs between us two.

On peut jouer à deux à ce jeu = Two can play at that game.

Je piquai des deux [*i.e., des deux éperons*] = I clapped spurs to my horse.

Quand les bœufs vont deux à deux,
Le labour n'en va que mieux =
There is nothing like being two to pull together.

Les deux font la paire = They are well matched.

Devant.—*Quand il apprit que je me mettais sur les rangs, il prit les devants* = When he heard that I was a candidate, he forestalled me.

Il va au-devant de vos désirs = He anticipates your ~~desires.~~

Je viendrai ou j'enverrai au-devant de vous = I will come or send to meet you.

Devenir.—*Il ne sait que devenir* = He does not know what to do.

Que devenez-vous? = ~~What becomes of you~~?

Devers.—*Tenir le bon bout ~~par devers soi~~* = To be on the right side of the ~~hedge.~~

Dévisager.—*L'œil de ce physionomiste ne vous quitte pas: il vous dévisage des pieds à la tête, d'une façon presque gênante* = The eye of that physiognomist does not leave you; he takes you to pieces from head to foot, in a way almost to throw you out of countenance.

Devoir.—*Qui a terme ne doit rien* = One owes nothing till the rent becomes due.

Il doit plus d'argent qu'il n'est gros—*Il doit au tiers et au quart* = He owes money on all sides, more than he can ever pay.

L'orgueil ne veut pas devoir = [LA ROCHEFOUCAULD.] Pride acknowledges no debt.

Fais ce que dois, advienne que pourra = Do your duty, happen what may.

Il me le faut, dût-il m'en coûter fort cher = I must have it, even though it should cost me ever so much.

Dussiez-vous m'en vouloir = Even though you should be angry with me.

Dévolu.—*J'ignore sur lequel des candidats vous avez jeté votre dévolu* = I don't know which of the candidates you have selected.

Dévorant.—*J'avais une soif dévorante* = I was parched with thirst.

Dévotion.—*Il n'est de dévotion que de jeune prêtre* = A new enterprise is always pushed on with energy. New brooms sweep clean.

Dia.—*Il n'entend ni à dia ni à huhau* = There is no making him listen to reason.

L'un tire à dia et l'autre à hue = One pulls one way and the other another.

Diable.*—*Aller au diable au vert* = To undertake a distant dangerous expedition.

Quel diable d'homme! = What a devil of a ~~fellow~~!

Cet homme me paraît un assez bon diable = [VOLTAIRE.]

That man seems to me a rather good-natured fellow.

C'est un pauvre diable = He is a poor ~~wretch~~.

Il s'est fait "l'avocat du diable" dans cette discussion religieuse = He took upon himself to put forth the objections in that religious debate.

Le diable s'en mêle = The devil is in it.

Il fera le diable à quatre = He will make a devil of a row.

Il fait un diable de métier = He does a queer, wretched business.

Il faut qu'il ait le diable au corps = He must be a desperate character. It is wonderfully plucky of him.

Ils tirent le diable par la queue † = They are very hard up; ~~They jog on as well as they can.~~

C'est le diable qui bat sa femme = A popular expression when it rains and the sun shines at the same time.

Nous avons eu une peur de diable = We were terribly frightened.

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* *Aller au diable au vert.* This rather obsolete phrase is a corruption. *Au vert* stands for *Vauvert*, or *Val Vert*, the name of a castle close to Paris, towards the *Barrière d'Enfer*, which was occupied by Philip Augustus after his excommunication, and which afterwards was said to be haunted by ghosts and devils. To exorcise those evil spirits, St. Louis gave the castle to the Carthusian monks in 1257. It was probably that association of fiends with the place that suggested the present name of "Rue d'Enfer" for the thoroughfare leading thereto, which was formerly called "Chemin de Vauvert."

Huet, however, thinks that the name of "Rue d'Enfer" came to this road from its being frequented by thieves and other bad characters. But after all, it may be that the word *Enfer* is a corruption of *infera*. The street "Saint Jacques" was long called *Via superior*, and the street "D'Enfer," which is parallel with it, was known as *Via inferior*, *Via infera*—whence probably the final denomination of that old roadway.

† *Tirer le diable par la queue* = "Le diable," in this graphic expression, may be presumed to do duty for the pitiless creditor or the usurer who, in his dealings with a needy party, is hard and exacting, and has

C'est le diable de lui faire entendre raison = It is no easy matter to bring her to listen to reason.
C'est le diable à confesser = It is a dreadfully hard job.
C'est là le diable = There's the rub.
Cela ne vaut pas le diable = That's not worth a fig.
Du diable si l'on y voit goutte = It is impossible to see through it.
Il n'est pas si diable qu'il est noir = He is not so black as he is painted.
Que diable a-t-il? = What the devil is the matter with him?
De quoi diable vous mêlez-vous? = What on earth are you meddling with?
Diable! c'est grave = Oh, dear! the matter is serious.
Il s'est débattu comme un beau diable = He ~~did~~ struggle, I can tell you.
Elle a la beauté du diable = She is not pretty, but she has the freshness of youth.
Une diable de pluie est venue tout gâter = A wretched rain came and spoilt everything.
Tout cela a été fait à la diable = ~~All that was~~ done ~~hurriedly, in a wretched way~~.
En se cramponnant à la soutane du curé, le diable grimpe jusque dans le beffroi = By the vicar's skirts the devil climbs up into the belfry.
Le diable était beau quand il était jeune = A young face is never ugly.
Quand le diable fut vieux, il se fit ermite = The devil grew sick, and a monk he would be:—When the devil was ill, the devil a saint would be: The devil got well, the devil a saint was he?
Ce qui vient du diable retourne au diable = Ill-gotten goods never prosper.

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to be pulled at frantically with a view to some concession or new favour being obtained.

"Il faut que la queue du diable lui soit soudée, chevillée et vissée à l'échine d'une façon bien triomphante pour qu'elle résiste à l'innombrable multitude de gens qui la tirent perpétuellement" (VICTOR HUGO, *Lucrèce Borgia*).—The devil's tail must be welded, fastened, and screwed on to his backbone in a most marvellous fashion to resist, as it does, the innumerable multitude of folks that are perpetually pulling at it.

Diantre.*—*Diantre! l'affaire se corse* = Dear me! the matter is getting serious.

Dieu.—*Dieu merci!* = God be praised; thank God.

À Dieu ne plaise = God forbid.

Plût à Dieu qu'il en fût ainsi = Would to God it were so.

Il a juré ses grands dieux qu'il ne le ferait plus = He swore by all that is sacred that he would never do it again.

Ce que femme veut, Dieu le veut = A woman must have her way.

L'homme propose, et Dieu dispose = ~~Man does what he can, God what He will.~~

Ce que Dieu garde est bien gardé = He is well kept whom God keeps.

S'il plaît à Dieu; Dieu aidant = Under God's will.

Mieux vaut s'adresser à Dieu qu'à ses saints = It is always best to apply to headquarters.

Différend.—*Partageons le différend* = Let us split the difference.

Différer.—*Ce qui est différé n'est pas perdu* = All is not lost that is delayed. Forbearance is no acquittance.

Difficile.—*Vous êtes trop difficile* = You are too particular, too exacting.

Difficulté.—*Cela ne souffre pas de difficulté* = That is a matter of course.

Je n'ai jamais eu la moindre difficulté avec lui = I never had the slightest disagreement with him.

Il tranchera la difficulté = He will settle the knotty point.

Cet homme est le père des difficultés = That man is for ever starting difficulties.

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* *Diantre*, euphemism for *diable*, like *bleu* for *Dieu*, in the exclamations *corbleu*, *morbleu*, *parbleu*. To the same class belongs the English *dear me*, a piously-meant substitution, through the 17th century Puritans, for the "profane" *Dio mio* of the days of Queen Elizabeth, when the Italian favourite Florio—who is credited with an English translation of Montaigne's *Essais*—introduced Italian into England, as it had been introduced a short time before into France, under the auspices of Catherine of Medici.

Digérer.—*Ils ne peuvent digérer cet affront* = They cannot ~~brook that affront~~. stand for that insult

Diligence.—*Faites grande diligence* = Make all possible haste.

C'est la diligence embourbée = He is a very slow coach.

Dinde.—*C'est une dinde* = She is a goose.

Dindon.—*Il est bête comme un dindon—gourmand comme un dindon* = He is as silly as a goose—as greedy as a pig.

Il sera le dindon de la farce * = He will be the dupe.

Dîner.—*Nous dînons en ville ce soir* = We dine out to-night.

Qui dort dîne = He who sleeps wants no dinner.

J'ai dîné par cœur = I went without dinner.

Il me semble que j'ai dîné quand je le vois = The very sight of the man takes away my appetite.

Dire.—*À vrai dire* = To speak plainly.

Pour ainsi dire = So to speak.

Pour mieux dire = Or rather.

Pour tout dire = In a word.

Comme qui dirait = As one should say.

Qu'est-ce à dire ? = What does it all mean?

C'est beaucoup dire = That is saying a good deal.

Par manière de dire = As it were.

Il m'a fait dire qu'il viendrait = He sent me word that he would come.

Je me le suis laissé dire = I have been given to understand that such was the case.

Voyons, laissez-vous dire = Come, be persuaded.

Tenez-le vous pour dit = Bear that in mind.

À qui le dîtes-vous ? = I believe you. I know all about it.

Soit dit en passant = Let it be said by the way.

Tout cela ne dit rien = All that goes for nothing.

Vous l'avez dit = Just so; you guessed right.

C'est tout dire = That's enough. That tells a tale.

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* In olden times, actors playing the part of dupes in farcical plays were called *Pères dindons*, as an allusion to the stupidity of turkeys. Hence the expression, *Être le dindon de la farce ; En être le dindon*, to be made a dupe of.

Tout cela est bon à dire, mais . . . = That's all very fine, but . . .

Dites-moi, arrêtez donc = I say, stop.

Laissez dire = Let people talk.

Il a toujours quelque chose à dire = He has always some fault to find.

Nous vivons à une triste époque, il n'y a pas à dire = We live in sad times, there is no denying it.

Il était dit qu'il me jouerait encore ce tour-là = It was written that he should again play me that trick.

Qu'on se le dise! = A word to the wise.

Qui l'eût dit? = Who would have thought it?

Si cela ne vous plaît pas, voilà qui est dit = If it does not please you, there's an end of it.

Si celle-là (cette plante) vous distrait un poco *de vos soucis, . . . tout est dit* = [SAINTINE, *Picciola.*]

If this one relieves you *un poco* from your cares, that is quite enough.

Au dire de bons juges = In the expressed opinion of good judges.

Puisque je vous dis! [familiar] = Why, really!

Mais, quand je vous dis! = Well, I never!

Vous dire ce que j'ai souffert! Non, vous auriez peine à le croire = You would hardly believe me were I to tell you what I had to endure.

Je vous le disais bien! Quand je vous le disais! [i.e., *N'avais-je pas raison?*] = Didn't I tell you?

Lui fier! Si l'on peut dire? = He proud! How can you say such a thing?

Et dire que je les ai toujours traités avec tant de bonté = And to think I always treated them so kindly.

Ah! vous m'en direz tant! = Well, well, that's another matter. Now I see.

Ce n'est qu'un on dit = It is but an idle report.

Ce n'est pas à dire que . . . = It does not follow that . . .

Si le cœur vous en dit = If you have a mind for it.

Cela va sans dire = It is a matter of course.

Aussitôt dit, aussitôt fait = No sooner said than done.

Un soi-disant gentilhomme = A self-styled, would-be nobleman.

Voulez-vous qu'on dise du bien de vous? n'en dîtes pas = [PASCAL.]

If you wish to be praised, do not praise yourself.

Dis-moi qui tu hantes, je te dirai qui tu es =

Tell me with whom thou goest,
I'll tell thee what thou doest.

Discorde.—*C'est une pomme de discorde* = It is a bone of contention.

Il fomente partout la discorde = He sows dissension everywhere.

Discrétion.—*Il y vit à discrétion* [military] = He has free quarters there.

Pain à discrétion = Bread *ad libitum.*

Je m'en remets à votre discrétion = I leave the matter to your judgment.

se Discuter.—*C'est un dogme qui ne se discute pas* = It is a dogma that admits of no discussion.

Diseur.*—*Diseur de bons mots, mauvais caractère* = [PASCAL.]

A man addicted to saying sharp things [witticisms] is generally ill-natured.

Les grands diseurs ne sont pas les grands faiseurs = Deeds, not words.

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* *Diseur de bons mots, mauvais caractère.* This saying of Pascal, which refers not to the English sense of *bad character*, but to that of *ill-tempered*, or rather to the sense, generally prevailing in the 17th century, of *ill-natured*, reminds me of an *ill-natured* attack in a leading London paper against a highly honourable Cambridge professor, who had taken up the cudgels in defence of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, when the venerable prelate had been denounced by an anonymous correspondent of the great newspaper as being too old, and inefficient as a preacher in comparison with the late Mr. Spurgeon! Professor J. having aptly quoted the saying in question, the said correspondent, who turned out to be closely connected with the editorial staff of the newspaper in question, took an unfair advantage of his position to assail him personally for presuming to defend the Archbishop, and sneeringly remarked that if Pascal had never said anything more judicious than this about "bad characters," his name would long ago have been buried as completely in oblivion as that of the Cambridge professor (bearing, we were indiscreetly told, the name of one of the great prophets) would assuredly be before long. Now, it happens that no less a judge than

Disponibilité. — *Officier en disponibilité* = Unattached officer.

Distance.—*À distance! Arrière!* = Keep your distance! Stand back!

De distance en distance = At certain distance.

Distraction.—*Il est sujet à des distractions* = He is subject to absence of mind.

La conversation est une distraction, et non un travail = Conversation (says Mackintosh) is relaxation, not business.

Distraire.—*Il faut distraire une portion de cette somme pour les dépenses* = A portion of that sum must be set apart for the expenses.

Il a distrait certains papiers d'état = He carried off certain state papers.

Cela distrait son attention = That takes off his attention.

Allez au théâtre: cela vous distraira * = Go to the theatre: it will cheer you up.

Divertir.—*Ce commis a diverti les deniers de sa recette* = That clerk embezzled money.

Les femmes préfèrent même qu'on les divertisse sans les aimer, plutôt que de les aimer sans les divertir = [FONTENELLE.]

Women would even rather be amused without being loved, than be loved without being amused.

La Bruyère himself actually endorsed Pascal's verdict. The fact is, the "ill-natured" journalist had fully justified, by his uncharitable attack, the application to his case of a remark, the wording of which he had piteously misconstrued; for "a bad character" in the English sense does not mean "un mauvais caractère," and *may* have nothing in common with a bad, heartless nature—"Diseur de bons mots, mauvais caractère," remarks somewhat severely La Bruyère, "je le dirais, s'il n'avait été dit. Ceux qui nuisent à la réputation ou à la fortune des autres plutôt que de perdre un bon mot, méritent une peine infamante; cela n'a pas été dit, et je l'ose dire."

* *Distraire, distraction*, from the Latin *distrahere*, to turn or pull aside in another direction. It should be noticed that the English verb "To distract," although from the same root as the corresponding French verb, is in its sense the very opposite of *distraire*, which, in sentences like the last one introduced above under that heading, implies amuse-

Dizaine.—*Ils étaient une dizaine* = They were about ten.

Doigt.—*J'en mettrais le doigt au feu* = I would lay my life upon it.

— *Vous avez mis le doigt dessus* = You have hit the right nail on the head.

— *Je prendrai un doigt de vin* = I will take a little sip of wine.

On lui a donné sur les doigts = He got a rap on his knuckles.

— *On le montrait au doigt* = He was pointed at.

— *Ils sont à deux doigts de leur ruine* = They are on the very brink of ruin.

— *Il est à deux doigts de la mort* = He has one foot in the grave.

— *Vous vous en mordrez les doigts* = You shall smart for it.

— *Vous vous en lécherez les doigts* = You will find it excellent.

Ils sont comme les deux doigts de la main = They are hand and glove together.

Mon petit doigt me l'a dit = A little bird told me.

— *Il a de l'esprit jusqu'au bout des doigts* = He is extremely witty.

— *Il nous a fait toucher la chose au doigt* = He showed us the thing plainly.

— *Ils lui obéissent au doigt et à l'œil* = They are at his beck and call.

— *Il n'a jamais fait œuvre de ses dix doigts* = He never would work.

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ment, relaxation. Both meanings, however, can be accounted for etymologically. In the French verb the prefix *dis* stands for *away*, so that *distraire* is to draw away from one's worries, or harassing work or study, and thereby to procure relief and pleasure. In the English verb *dis* means *asunder*, so that "To distract" is to draw asunder, to pull now to the right, now to the left—in short, "to split," and thus to inflict pain.

The same discrepancy affects, from one language to the other, the substantive *distraction*, which in French expresses pleasure, whilst, to quote an instance that will go home to my fellow-Londoners, the sense of the English "distraction" is painfully forced on the metropolitan mind and ears by the too familiar infliction of Italian organ-grinding.

C'est une bague au doigt = It is an easy berth. It is a valuable thing, to be easily disposed of.

Ne mets ton doigt en anneau trop étroit = Beware of an unequal partnership.

Entre l'arbre et l'écorce il ne faut pas mettre le doigt = Never interfere between man and wife.

Dominant.—*C'est sa passion dominante* = It is his ruling passion.

Dommage.—*C'est grand dommage!* = It is a great pity.

Donc.—*Allons donc!—Ecoutez donc* = Come, come—Just listen.

Venez donc me voir = Do come and see me.

Donnée.—*Voici des données historiques intéressantes* = Here are interesting historical records.

Donner.—*Je ne sais où donner de la tête* = I don't know which way to turn.

Il a donné tête baissée dans le panneau = He rushed headlong into the trap.

Qui donne tôt donne deux fois = He gives twice who gives in a trice.

Je vous le donne en cent = I bet you a hundred to one you will never guess.

Cela m'a donné à penser, à réfléchir = It made me think; it set me a-thinking.

À qui est-ce à donner? = Whose deal is it?

Quel âge lui donneriez-vous? = How old would you think him to be?

Ce vin donne à la tête = This wine flies up into the head.

Il a donné de la tête en tombant = He fell upon his head.

Ils donnent dans le luxe = They go in for, they indulge in, luxury.

Son régiment n'a pas donné = His regiment was not engaged.

Ils se sont donné une cordiale poignée de mains = They shook hands warmly.

Ils s'en donnent à cœur-joie = They thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Mon balcon donne sur le boulevard = My balcony looks out upon the boulevard.

Vous nous la donnez belle—Vous nous la donnez bonne [elliptically for *la plaisanterie*] = You are imposing on our credulity.

Il n'est pas homme à donner là-dedans = He is not one to be taken in by that.

Ils se donnent du bon temps = They make a merry life of it.

Pourquoi se donner la tête contre un mur? = Why knock one's head against a wall?

Donnant, donnant = Give and take. *Do ut des.*

Doré.—*Cheveux d'un blond doré* = Flaxen hair.

Dormir.—*Elle dort comme une marmotte; comme un sabot; à poings fermés* = She sleeps like a top.

Il dort la grasse matinée = He lies late in bed.

Vous pouvez dormir sur les deux oreilles = You may sleep in perfect security.

Le bien leur vient en dormant = They grow rich without work or trouble.

Je dormais debout = I could not keep my eyes open.

J'ai dormi un bon somme = I have had a good nap.

Je ne veux pas laisser dormir ces capitaux = I don't want that capital to lie dormant.

N'éveillez pas le chat qui dort = Do not rouse the sleeping lion.

Il n'est pire eau que l'eau qui dort = Still waters run deep.

Tu dors, Brutus, tu dors, et Rome est dans les fers = [VOLTAIRE.]

Awake, Brutus, awake! Rome is enslaved.

Dos.—*Il a bon dos, il peut payer* = He has a strong back, he can afford to pay.

On lui a tout mis sur le dos = They threw the whole blame upon him.

Il a une nombreuse famille sur le dos = He is saddled with a large family.

N'allez pas vous mettre cet homme-là à dos = Don't go and make an enemy of that man.

Le juge les a renvoyés dos à dos = The judge nonsuited them both.

Il fait le gros dos = He assumes an air of importance.

Ces braves ont eu vite tourné le dos = Those plucky fellows soon took to their heels.

Il se laisse manger la laine sur le dos = He tamely submits to every imposition.

J'en ai plein le dos = I am quite tired, quite sick, of it.

Dot.—*Un coureur de dots* = A fortune-hunter.

Doter.*—*Il a richement doté sa fille qu'il aime éperdument* = He has given a very handsome marriage portion to his daughter, on whom he dotes.

Double.—*Tenir des livres en partie double* = To keep books by double entry.

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* I have made up this sentence purposely to bring out the great difference of meaning between *Doter*, to endow, and To dote, *raffoler*, as a sequel to the preceding note on the distinction between the French verbs *Distraire* and *Divertir*, and the English verbs To distract and To divert. The student should also carefully distinguish between *Abuser*, to deceive, and To abuse, *insulter*—*Agréer*, to accept, and To agree, *convenir*—*Attendre*, to wait for, to expect, and To attend, *soigner*, *s'occuper de*, *suivre*—*Avertir*, to warn, and To advertise, *annoncer*, *publier*—*Aviser*, to consider, and To advise, *conseiller*.

Equally deserving of special notice is the contrast between *Demander*, to ask, and To demand, *exiger*—*Ignorer*, to be ignorant of, unacquainted with, and To ignore, *dédaigner*, *ne pas admettre*—*Injurier*, to insult, and To injure, *nuire à*, *blesser*—*Labourer*, to plough, and To labour, *travailler*, *s'efforcer de*—*Ménager*, to spare, and To manage, *diriger*—*Regarder*, to look at, and To regard, *estimer*—*Résumer*, to sum up, and To resume, *reprendre*. [It is curious to notice that even so accomplished a scholar as W. Hazlitt, in his translation of Guizot's *Histoire de la Révolution d'Angleterre*, should have confounded these two verbs, and rendered, *Strafford résuma sa défense*, by "Strafford resumed his defence,"—instead of "summed up"—which shows, be it said *en passant*, that the current of blunders from one language to the other runs equally strong to and fro across the Channel.]

Again, I would call attention to the analogy or similitude of form calculated to mislead between *Butter*, to stumble, and To butter, *flatter*—*Gourmander*, to reprimand, and To gormandise, *se gorger*, *manger goulument*—*Hisser*, to hoist up, and To hiss, *siffler*—*Humer*, to inhale, and To hum, *fredonner*—*Hurler*, to howl, and To hurl, *lancer*, *précipiter*—*Tirer*, to draw, and To tire, *fatiguer*—*Trépasser*, to die, and To trespass, *transgresser*, *enfreindre*—*Troubler*, to disturb, to confuse, and To trouble, *inquiéter*, *importuner*.

Cet article fait double emploi sur votre relevé de compte = This item figures twice in your statement of account.

Gardez le double = Keep the duplicate.

C'est un double coquin, un double fripon = He is an arrant knave.

Les hommes doubles sont utiles en ce qu'ils apportent; mais il se faut garder qu'ils n'emportent que le moins qu'on peut = [MONTAIGNE.]

Double-faced men are useful so far as what they bring; but one must be careful that they shall carry off as little as possible.

Jouons à quitte ou double = Let us play double or quits.

Mais le fût-il deux fois (i.e., *bossu*)—*que cela ne te trouble,*
Il m'apparaît souvent ainsi, quand j'y vois double—
Il serait ton mari = [COPPÉE, *Le Luthier de Crémone.*]

But even though he were twice so [hunchbacked]—let not that disturb you; he often appears thus to me when I see double—he would be your husband.

Que vois-je, mes amis? Quel nuage vous trouble? . . .
Ou vous n'y voyez pas, ou vous y voyez double! * =
[BERCHOUX, *La Gastronomie.*]

What do I behold, my friends? You either don't see, or see double.

Doucement.—*Notre cher malade va bien doucement* = Our dear patient is but poorly, progresses slowly.

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* "*Quand j'y vois double.*"—"*Ou vous n'y voyez pas, ou vous y voyez double.*" I venture to reproduce here a note from my English edition of Coppeé's *Luthier de Crémone*, p. 57:—"This phenomenon of double vision, as the immediate result of drink, is evidently the same under every clime, and it would seem that the same cause produces the opposite effect in certain individuals, to wit, the well-known, and, for aught I know, perfectly authentic dialogue between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas on their entering arm-in-arm one night the House of Commons: 'Why, Pitt, I don't know what's the matter with me: I can't s(h)ee the S(h)peaker.'—'How s(h)trange! *I* can s(h)ee two.'"

I have taken the latter quotation, *Ou vous n'y voyez pas, ou vous y voyez double*, from a remarkable work, *Les Classiques de la Table*, which deserves to be better known. My copy of it, published 11 Rue Thérèse, Paris, and enriched by many excellent portraits, is dated 1844.

Douceur.—*Il faut la prendre par la douceur* = You must deal gently with her.

Ces pauvres gens ne goûtent guère les douceurs de la vie = These poor people know little of the comforts of life.

Plus fait douceur que violence = Gentleness is better than harshness.

Je n'aime pas qu'on me dise des douceurs, moi = [*Gil Blas.*] I don't want people's compliments, not I.

Douillet.—*Voyons, ne faites donc pas le douillet* = Come, don't be afraid of being hurt.

Doute.—*Le doute, disent certains philosophes, est le commencement de la sagesse* = Doubt, say some philosophers, is the beginning of wisdom.

Cela ne fait aucun doute = There is no question about it.

Mettre, révoquer une chose en doute = To question the accuracy of a statement.

Douter.
se Douter. } *J'en doute* = I doubt it.—*Je m'en doute* = I suspect it.

—*Il ne doute de rien* = He thinks he can do anything.—

—*Il ne se doute de rien* = He suspects nothing.

—*Je me doutais de quelque chose* = I smelt a rat.

Doux.—*Il filera doux, je vous le promets* = He will submit readily enough, I can tell you.

Tout doux, vous dis-je = Gently, I tell you.

Douzaine.—*C'est un écrivain à la douzaine* = He is a very indifferent writer.

On n'en trouve pas treize à la douzaine = They are by no means common.

Doyen.—*C'est notre doyen d'âge* = He is our senior member.

Dragée.—*La dragée est amère* = It is a bitter pill.

—*Vous lui tenez la dragée bien haute* = You make him pay dear; you keep him a long time waiting for the promised favour.

Dragon.—*Quel dragon que cette femme!* = What a virago that woman is!

Drap.—*Vous voilà dans de beaux draps!* = You are in a pretty mess.

Vous me mettez dans de beaux draps blancs, à ce que je vois = [MOLIÈRE.]
You put me in a fine pickle, I see.

Il a de quoi tailler en plein drap = He can do what he likes.

Le farceur voudrait avoir le drap et l'argent = The rogue would like to eat his cake and have it still.

Drapeau.—*Il est sous les drapeaux* = He is serving in the army.

Le drapeau déchiré fait la gloire du capitaine = A torn flag redounds to the captain's credit.

Dresser.—*Cela fait dresser les cheveux à la tête* = It makes one's hair stand on end.

C'est un animal bien dressé = It is a well-trained animal.

Droit.—*C'est à bon droit qu'il se plaint* = He has good reason to complain.

Adressez-vous à qui de droit = Apply to those whom it may concern.

Où il n'y a rien le roi perd ses droits = Where nothing is to be had, the king loses his right.

Malgré son âge, il est droit comme un I = In spite of his great age, he is as straight as an arrow.

C'est un homme droit = He is an upright man.

Je le ferai marcher droit = I'll see that he behaves properly.

On a fait droit à sa demande = The justice of his claim was admitted.

Cela lui revient de droit = It is his by right.

École de droit; Étudiant en droit = School of law; Law student.

Les droits acquis sont très respectés en Angleterre = Vested interests are very much respected in England.

Le droit des gens = The law of nations.

Drôle.—*Cet homme est drôle; c'est un drôle de corps* = That man is funny; he is a queer fellow.

Cet homme est un drôle = That man is a villain.

Dru.—*Une pluie drue et menue* = A thick rain, hard and fast.

Les balles pleuvaient dru comme grèle = The bullets fell as thick as hail.

Dur.—*Nous avons souvent couché sur la dure* [*terre* understood] = We often slept on the bare ground.

Nous en avons vu de dures [*choses* understood] = We have had to rough it.

Il a l'oreille dure = He is hard of hearing.

C'est un dur à cuire = He is a tough one.

Quand l'un veut du mou, l'autre veut du dur = Those two never agree.

C'est dur à digérer = It is hard to bear [familiarly, It is hard lines.]

Durant.—*Il en aura la jouissance sa vie durant* = He will enjoy the benefit of it during his lifetime.

Il m'a sermonné une heure durant = He lectured me for a whole hour.

Durer.—*Il ne peut durer en place* = He cannot keep still.

Il ne peut durer dans sa peau = He is ever ready to leap out of his skin.

Il faut faire vie qui dure = One must make life last.

Il faut faire feu qui dure = One must think of the morrow, and not spend all in a day.

Ça durera tant que ça pourra [familiar] = A short life and a merry one.

E.

Eau.—*De l'eau bénite de cour* = Empty promises.

L'affaire est tombée dans l'eau = The affair came to nothing.

Cela s'en est allé en eau de boudin = It collapsed entirely.

Tout est allé à vau l'eau = All went to wreck and ruin.

Ils n'y ont fait que de l'eau claire = They spent their labour in vain.

Il tombe de l'eau = It is raining.

Le vent est à l'eau = The wind is in the wet quarter.

A fleur d'eau = On a level with the water.

Les eaux sont basses chez lui = He is hard up—at a low ebb.

Il commence à revenir sur l'eau = He is holding up his head again.

J'étais sûr que cet incident reviendrait sur l'eau = I felt sure that that incident would be revived, would turn up again.

Ils nagent en pleine eau = They are most prosperous.

Il cherche à nager entre deux eaux = He wavers between the two parties.

Il aime à pêcher en eau trouble = He likes to fish in troubled waters.

C'est porter de l'eau à la rivière = It is carrying coals to Newcastle.

Vous nous en faites venir l'eau à la bouche = You make our mouths water.

Il sait faire venir l'eau au moulin = He knows how to bring grist to his mill.

L'eau va toujours au moulin = Money makes money.

Le malheureux suait sang et eau = The poor fellow toiled hard—he slaved.

Il est comme le poisson dans l'eau = He lives in clover.

Ils se ressemblent comme deux gouttes d'eau = They are as like as two peas.

Ils vont tous les ans aux eaux = They go every year to a watering-place.

Il a mis de l'eau dans son vin = He has come down a peg or two.

Mes souliers prennent l'eau = My shoes let in water.

Notre navire faisait eau = Our ship had sprung a leak.

C'est tout bonnement un coup d'épée dans l'eau = It is simply beating the air—a futile attempt.

D'ici là, il passera bien de l'eau sous le pont = Many things will happen before that.

Une goutte d'eau suffit pour faire déborder un vase plein = It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back.

Laissons couler l'eau = Never mind, let things have their run.

Goutte à goutte, l'eau cave la pierre = Continual dropping wears away stones.

Il ne faut pas dire ; fontaine, je ne boirai jamais de ton eau = After scorning comes catching. You never know what you may come to.

Tenir les gens le bec dans l'eau = [See BEC.]

Tant va la cruche à l'eau qu'à la fin elle se casse = [See CRUCHE.]

Il n'est pire eau que l'eau qui dort = [See DORMIR.]

Écart.—*Il faut de l'indulgence pour les écarts de jeunesse* = One must be lenient for the errors of youth.

Je vois un sérieux écart entre les recettes et les dépenses = I see a material discrepancy between the receipts and the expenditure.

Son cheval fit un écart et le désarçonna = His horse stepped aside and threw him off the saddle.

Je me suis tenu à l'écart = I kept aloof.

Écarter.—*Écartez cette pensée de votre esprit* = Dismiss that thought from your mind.

Sa demande en justice fut écartée = His demand was rejected by the court.

Écartez un peu les jambes = Just spread open your legs a little.

Un endroit écarté = An out-of-the-way place.

s'Écarter.—*Cela s'écarte du but* = That is wide of the mark.

Il s'écarte de ses devoirs = He forgets his duties.

Échange.—*Échange n'est pas vol* = Exchange is no robbery.

La liberté des échanges = Free trade.

Échapper.—*Son nom m'est échappé de la mémoire* = His name has slipped my memory.

Comment une parole si imprudente a-t-elle pu lui échapper ? = How can he have dropt so imprudent a word ?

Nous l'avons échappé belle = We had a narrow escape.

Écharpe.—*Il porte le bras en écharpe* = He carries his arm in a sling.

Ils ont changé d'écharpe = They have changed colours.

Échasse.—*Il est toujours monté sur des échasses* = He is ever making use of high-sounding words.

Échaudé.*—*Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide* = [See CHAT.]

Échauffer.—*Il ne fait pas bon lui échauffer les oreilles* = It is not safe to rouse his anger.

s'Échauffer.—*La querelle s'échauffait* = The quarrel was getting serious.

Ce serait puéril de s'échauffer à ces chinoiseries = It were puerile to get excited over (or to take offence at) those silly trickeries.

Échéance.—*À courte échéance* = At a short date.

Jusqu'à l'échéance = Until maturity.

Cette lettre de change sera payée à l'échéance = This bill of exchange shall be paid on its coming due.

Échéant.—*Le cas échéant* = If such should ever be the case.

Échec.—*Il est échec et mat* = He is checkmated.

Quel échec et mat on lui préparait! =

[MME. DE SÉVIGNÉ.]

What a thorough disappointment was in store for him!

Échelle.—*Faites-lui la courte échelle* = ~~Give him~~ a lift. ~~Help him on, do.~~

Après lui, il faut tirer l'échelle = There is no beating him. He leaves nothing to be done after him.

Les échelles du Levant = The seaports of the Levant.

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* In his *Proverbs and their Lessons*, Dr. Trench alludes to this French saying as follows:—"*A burnt child fears the fire* (the English proverb) is good; but that of many tongues, *A scalded dog fears cold water*, is better still. Ours does but express that those who have suffered once will henceforward be timid in respect of that same thing from which they have suffered; but that other the tendency to exaggerate such fears, so that now they shall fear even where no fear is. And the fact that so it will be clothes itself in an almost infinite variety of forms. Thus one Italian proverb says: *A dog which has been beaten with a stick is afraid of its shadow;* and another, which could only have had its birth in the sunny South, where the glancing but harmless lizard so often darts across your path: *Whom a serpent has bitten a lizard alarms.* With a little variation from this, the Jewish Rabbis had said long before: *One bitten by a serpent is afraid of a rope's end*—even that which bears so remote a resemblance to a serpent as this does, shall now inspire him with terror."

Échine.—*Il a l'échine dorsale très flexible* = He is a cringing creature.

Il était crotté jusqu'à l'échine [familiar] = He was splashed up to his neck.

Éclater.—*Elle éclata de rire* = She burst out laughing.

Elle éclata en injures = She broke out into abuse.

Éclipse.—*Sa raison est sujette à de fréquentes éclipses* = His reason is frequently under a cloud.

Éclore.—*Notre siècle a vu éclore de grands génies* = Our age has produced great geniuses.

École.—*Il a fait l'école buissonnière* = He played truant.

C'est de la haute école = It is in the very highest style.

Vous êtes à bonne école = You are in good hands.

Quelle école! = What a blunder!

Cet écrivain a fait école = This writer founded a school.

Écolier.—*Nous avons pris le chemin des écoliers* = We have come a long way round.

Économie.—*C'est une économie de bouts de chandelle.* [See CHANDELLE.]

Il n'y a pas de petites économies = Take care of the pence: the pounds will take care of themselves.

J'admire l'économie de sa toilette = I admire the arrangement of her dress.

L'économie du corps humain = The harmony of the human body.

Économiser.—*Qui économise s'enrichit* = A penny saved is a penny gained.

Le premier économisé est le premier gagné = Saving is getting.

Écoper.—*La police a généralement la main lourde, et les étudiants ont écopé. Ils écopent toujours* =

[A. CLAVEAU, *Le Soleil.*]

The police is generally heavy-handed, and the students got the worst of it. They always do get the worst of it.

Avec sa bonne humeur habituelle, M. Francisque Sarcey nous dit qu'il est toujours sûr d'écoper dans les

"Revues" de fin d'année = With his usual good-humour, M. Sarcey tells us that he is always sure to catch it in the New Year's "Reviews."

Écorcher.—*Jamais beau parler n'écorcha la langue* = Fair words cost nothing.

Ne descendez pas à cet hôtel; vous y seriez écorché = Don't put up at that hotel; you would be fleeced.

Vous criez avant d'être écorché. [See ANGUILLE.]

Mme. de Pompadour parlait bien l'allemand, mais elle écorchait le français = Mme. de Pompadour spoke German well, but she murdered French.

Il faut tondre les brebis, et non pas les écorcher = Sheep should be shorn, not flayed alive. Don't kill the goose with the golden eggs—that is, Do not crush the people under taxation.

Il écorche l'anguille par la queue. [See ANGUILLE.]

Il n'y a rien de si difficile à écorcher que la queue = There is nothing so difficult in an affair as the conclusion.

Autant fait celui qui tient que celui qui écorche = The receivers of stolen goods are as bad as the thieves.

Cette musique vous écorche les oreilles = This music grates on the ear.

Écorner.—*Il fait un vent à écorner un bœuf* = It blows a hurricane. The wind is enough to blow one's head off.

Elle a la mauvaise habitude d'écorner les livres qu'on lui prête = She has a bad habit of dog's-earing the books one lends her.

Ils ont quelque peu écorné leur fortune = They have made a rather big hole in their fortune.

Écot.—*Chacun paiera son écot* = Every one shall pay his share.

Dis comment d'un bon mot,
À ceux qui te traitaient tu payais ton écot =
[COLNET, *L'Art de Dîner en Ville.*]

Tell us how you repaid with a good anecdote those who entertained you.

Écouler.—*Il aura bien de la peine à écouler ses marchandises* = He will have much trouble to get rid of his goods.

s'Écouler.—*Comme le temps et l'argent s'écoulent vite !* = How soon time and money are spent!

Écoute.—*La presse est incessamment aux écoutes* = The press is incessantly on the look-out.

Écouter.—*Vous écoutez trop cet enfant* = You humour that child too much.

Il n'écoute que d'une oreille = He lends a listless ear.

Écouter aux portes = To eavesdrop.

*Un écoute s'il pleut** = A mill worked by rain-water.

C'est un écoute-s'il-pleut = He is an irresolute man, easily nonplussed.

s'Écouter.—*Il s'écoute trop* = He coddles himself too much.

Écraser.—*Je suis écrasé de travail* = I am worked to death.

Écrevisse.—*Rouge comme une écrevisse* = As red as a lobster or a turkey-cock.

Écriture.—*Écriture bâtarde* = A tumbled-down, mongrel kind of writing.

Écu.—*Vieux amis, vieux écus* = Old friends are the best.

C'est le père aux écus = He is made of money.

Écuelle.—*Il a bien plu dans son écuelle* = He has come into good property.

Ils ont mis tout par écuelles pour le recevoir = They spared no expense to receive him handsomely.

Cela lui a rogné l'écuelle = That curtailed his income.

Qui s'attend à l'écuelle d'autrui dîne souvent par cœur = He that waits for another man's trencher eats many a late dinner.

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* This quaint expression owes its origin to the former condition of mills which depended on rain-water for their motive-power, and were therefore subject to continual stoppage. Former English visitors to the handsome town of Boulogne-sur-Mer, where one could formerly read several such quaint names as "Rue Tant-perd-tant-paye," "Rue Thomas-haut-le-pied," &c., will recollect the "Rue Écoute-s'il-pleut," a small side-street off the "Rue de l'Écu," now "Rue Victor Hugo." The old historical term, which was due to the presence of a very old mill of the above description, has now disappeared, alas! like too many curious vestiges of the past.

Écurie.—*C'est un cheval à l'écurie* = It is a source of useless expense.

C'est fermer l'écurie quand les chevaux sont dehors = That is taking precautions too late, when the mischief is done.

Effet.—*Cela ne fait pas bon effet* = That does not look well.

Ils me font l'effet de braves gens = They look to me worthy people.

Effort.—*Voyons, faites un effort sur vous-même* = Come, do yourself violence.

Effronté.—*Il est effronté comme un page de cour* = He is as impudent as a court-page.

Égal.—*C'est égal, c'est bien contrariant* = For all that, it is very annoying.

Cela m'est égal = That is all one to me. I don't care.

Tout lui est égal = He cares for nothing. Everything is the same to him.

Traiter d'égal à égal = To treat on equal terms.

Une humeur égale = An even temper.

Elle aime cet enfant à l'égal des siens = She loves that child as much as if it were her own.

Église.—*Il est gueux comme un rat d'église* = He is as poor as a church-mouse.

Près de l'église, loin de Dieu = The nearer the church the farther from God.

Ce que nous avons le plus, c'est l'essor et l'élan = [SAINTE-BEUVE.]
Our uppermost quality is an impulsive imagination.

Éléphant.—*Vous faites d'une mouche un éléphant* = You make a mountain of a mole-hill.

Élève.—*Je fais des élèves dans mon jardin* = I raise plants and flowers in my garden.

Elzévir.*—*Voici un bel elzévir* = Here is a fine specimen of the Elzevir edition.

Emballé.—*Un cheval emballé* = A runaway horse.

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* *Un elzévir* is a volume of the famous Elzévir collection, thus called from the great Dutch printers of that name, who have immortalised

s'Emballer.—*Cette brave femme s'emballe à tout propos* = This good woman is very apt to get over-excited.

s'Embarquer.—*S'embarquer sans biscuit* = To set out on an enterprise or expedition without sufficient preparation.

Tu sais que souvent il en cuit
Pour s'être, comme on dit, embarqué sans biscuit =
[DESTOUCHES.]

You are aware that one often suffers for having embarked, as it is said, without biscuits.

Embarras.—*Je crains de leur causer de l'embarras* = I am afraid of being in their way.

Il fait beaucoup d'embarras = He is very pretentious.

Embarras de richesses = Perplexity arising from an excessive variety of choice.

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themselves by its production (Amsterdam and Leyden, 16th and 17th centuries).

To the same class belong many other words, which may be called historical, including the following:—

Daguerréotype, from the French painter Daguerre, who produced his photographic plates in 1839, when the Chamber of Deputies granted him a pension.

Dahlia, from the Swedish botanist Dahl, who first cultivated in Europe that beautiful flower imported from its native China—called *Georgina* in Germany, where it was subsequently introduced by the botanist Georgi, who robbed Professor Dahl of its name.

Dédale, a labyrinth, from the Athenian architect, sculptor, and artificer Dædalus, who made the great Cretan labyrinth, where he was eventually confined by King Minos, and from whence he escaped by means of wings which he had constructed.

Guillemet, inverted commas, from the French printer of that name, who first introduced this typographical sign.

Guillocher, to engine-turn, thus called after a French workman named Guillot, who is credited with the original idea of this ornamentation.

Guillotine, the too well-known lugubrious machine invented by Dr. Guillotin (1738–1814), or rather, to speak more accurately, introduced from Italy into France at the suggestion of this worthy philanthropist, who was anxious to do away with the tortures hitherto employed.

Macadam, road metal, thus called in remembrance of John M'Adam who first used it, and received a grant from the British Parliament as a reward in 1825.

See also *Silhouette* in vol. ii.

Embarrasser.—*En société, il est embarrassé de sa personne* = When in society, he does not know what to do with himself.

Embellir.—*Cela ne fait que croître et embellir* = It grows better and better [generally used ironically.] [See GROÎTRE.]

Emblée.—*Il a gagné d'emblée* = He came out first without difficulty.

Ce tableau l'a placé d'emblée parmi les premiers peintres du jour = This picture placed him straight off amongst the first painters of the day.

Emboîter.—*Les indifférents emboîtent le pas derrière les gros bataillons* = The indifferent follow suit behind the big battalions.

Embouché.—*Une personne mal embouchée* = A person who uses a coarse language.

Embrasser.—*Qui trop embrasse mal étreint* = Grasp all, lose all.

Emmitouflé.—*Jamais chat emmitouflé ne prit souris* = [See CHAT.]

s'Émousser.—*Les douleurs les plus profondes s'émoussent avec le temps* = Time assuages [literally, takes the edge off] the deepest grief.

Empêcher.—*Il faut souffrir ce qu'on ne peut empêcher* = What cannot be cured must be endured.

N'empêche que [elliptical for *Cela n'empêche que*] = For all that; All the same.

Empire.—*Il ne céderait pas pour un empire* = Nothing would make him yield.

Employer.—*Il a employé le vert et le sec* = He left no stone unturned.

s'Employer.—*Il s'est employé pour moi de la manière la plus bienveillante* = He exerted himself on my behalf in the kindest manner.

Empoigner.—*C'est une scène qui empoigne le public* = It is a scene that takes a thorough hold of the public.

Emporte-pièce.—*C'est écrit à l'emporte-pièce* = It is written in a sharp, incisive style.

Emporter.—*Ses satires emportent la pièce* = His satires are most biting.

Autant en emporte le vent = It is all idle talk. Many words will not fill a bushel.

Vous ne l'emporterez pas au paradis = My turn will come sooner or later.

Cet avis l'emporta [*la balance*, or *le vote*, understood] = That opinion prevailed.

Il l'emportera facilement sur ses concurrents [*la palme* understood] = He will easily beat his rivals.

De peur que sur l'esprit l'argile ne l'emporte = [LAMARTINE.]
Lest the clay should get the mastery of the spirit.

Le diable les emporte ! = Hang 'em ! [SHAKESPEARE.]

s'Emporter.—*Il s'emporte pour un rien* = He flies into a passion for a mere nothing.

Empressé.—*Il fait l'empressé auprès d'elle* = He shows her particular attentions.

Elle va, vient, fait l'empressée = [LA FONTAINE.]
It goes, and comes, and busies about.

Emprunté.—*Une beauté empruntée* = An artificial beauty.

Elle a l'air un peu emprunté = She looks a little awkward.

Emprunter.—*Ne choisit pas qui emprunte* = [See CHOISIR.]

Qui emprunte perd ses habitudes d'économie = Borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry. [SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet.*]

En * [Pron.].—*J'en ai vu quelques-uns* = I have seen some.

J'en prendrai deux = I shall take two.

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* That personal pronoun *en* ("of it," "of them")—quite distinct from the preposition *en*, of which I have thought right to give above several idiomatic constructions—always accompanies the indefinite pronouns *quelques-uns*, *aucun*, *autre*, as also nouns expressing a quantity (*une douzaine*, *la moitié*, &c.), and the numeral adjectives or adverbs of quantity, when they are the "object" of the verb, and the noun to which they refer is not expressed at the same time. Thus we say: "Prenez-*en* quelques-uns ; J'*en* achèterai une douzaine ; *En* voulez-vous encore ?" &c. [MARIETTE'S *Half-hours of French Translations*, p. 11.]

Prenez-en un autre = Take another.

En voulez-vous ? = Will you have any?

En est-il un plus pauvre en la machine ronde ? = [LA FONTAINE.]

Is there a more miserable man to be met with in the wide world?

C'en est fait = It is all over.

En arriver à souhaiter la tempête, n'est-ce pas le monde renversé ? = [*Le Petit Journal.*]

To come to wish for a cataclysm, is it not the world thrown upside down?

Si bien qu'au bout de l'an
Il en rapporta davantage = [LA FONTAINE.]

The result being that by the end of the year it produced all the more.

En [Prep.].—*Il s'est toujours conduit en galant homme* = He always behaved like a gentleman.

Il en parle en connaisseur = He speaks of it as a connoisseur.

En bon jeune homme que vous êtes = Like a good young man that you are.

De mal en pis = From bad to worse; Worse and worse.

De mieux en mieux ; de pis en pis = Better and better; Worse and worse.

Il marchait en tête = He was marching at the head.

Je suis en eau = I am dripping wet.

Du blé en herbe = Corn in the blade.

En belle humeur = In a merry mood.

En haine de = Out of hatred to.

Taillé en pointe = Ending in a point.

Des arbres taillés en buisson = Trees cut in the form of a bush.

Hamlet ne voulait pas tuer le roi pendant qu'il était en prières = Hamlet would not kill the king while he was at prayers.

Je ne veux pas être en reste avec eux = I don't want to be behindhand with them.

Docteur en médecine = Doctor of medicine.

En tant que je puis = As far as I can.

s'Encanailler.—*Le siècle, disait déjà Molière il y a 250 ans, s'encanaille furieusement* = Low characters, said Molière 250 years ago, are introduced everywhere nowadays.

Encensoir.—*Donner de l'encensoir par le nez; Casser le nez à coups d'encensoir* = To be a fulsome flatterer.

Enchère.—*La propriété est mise aux enchères* = The property is being brought to the hammer.

C'est une folle enchère = It is a re-sale at any price [the first buyer having been unable to execute the conditions of the sale.]

Il en paiera la folle enchère = He will pay the penalty of his rashness.

Une enchère au rabais = A Dutch auction.

Enclume.—*C'est un ouvrage à remettre sur l'enclume* = It is a work that wants recasting.

Il est entre le marteau et l'enclume = He is in a serious dilemma; between the hammer and the anvil.

Il faut être enclume ou marteau = One must either do or suffer evil.

À l'Encontre.—*Dans son application courante, cette loi va à l'encontre des intentions du législateur, comme des vœux du moraliste* = [*Le Temps.*]

In its ordinary application, this law runs counter to the intentions of the legislator, as well as to the wishes of the moralist.

Encore.*—*Encore si vous m'aviez prévenu* = If only you had warned me.

Encore si nos innombrables fonctionnaires rendaient des services proportionnés à ce qu'ils coûtent! = If only those numberless officials of ours rendered services proportionate with their cost.

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* *Encore, encor*, from the Latin (*ad*) *hanc oram*, until this hour. *Encore* is used with the meaning of "yet," strictly in accordance with its etymological sense, especially in negative sentences: *Il n'est pas encore temps*, i.e., *il n'est pas temps à cette heure.*

Encore has also the meanings of "again": *Quoi! encore?* What, again?—of "also": *Outre cela, il y a aussi . . .* Besides this, there

Encre.—*C'est la bouteille à l'encre*=[See BOUTEILLE.]
Il lui a écrit de la bonne encre=He wrote to him in strong terms.

Encroûté.—*Il est encroûté de préjugés*=He is full of prejudices.

s'Endormir.—*Vous voyez que je ne me suis pas endormi*=You see I have not been idle.

Enfant.—*Il commandait les enfants perdus* = He led the forlorn hope (of former times).
Un enfant de troupe=A soldier's son brought up in barracks.
La Charité est la mère adoptive des enfants trouvés=Charity is the adoptive mother of foundlings.
Allons, ne faites donc pas l'enfant–Come, don't behave like a child.
Il est aussi innocent que l'enfant qui vient de naître=He is as innocent as the babe unborn.
Enfant gâté devient souvent enfant ingrat = A spoilt child often turns out an ungrateful child.
L'enfant est un petit homme—L'homme est un grand enfant= [LAMARTINE.]
The child is a small man—The man is a big child.
Il a deux enfants du second lit=He has two children by his second wife.
M. Punch s'est immortalisé avec ses enfants terribles=Mr. Punch has immortalised himself with his dreadful plaguy children.

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is also . . .—of "still": *Son dernier ouvrage est encore plus intéressant;* His last work is still more interesting.

Let us note also *Encore si*, with the meaning of "if only," as in our text:

Encor si ce banni n'eût rien aimé sur terre!= —VICTOR HUGO.

If only this outcast had loved nothing upon earth!

There is, besides, *encore que*, "even though":

L'envie honore le mérite, encore qu'elle s'efforce de l'avilir= —MARMONTEL.

Envy honours merit, even though it would fain vilify it.

C'est bien l'enfant de sa mère = He takes after his mother.

Il est bon enfant = He is a good fellow.

Tout cela forme un tableau animé d'une gaieté bon enfant = All that forms a bright picture of a good-natured liveliness.

Enfanter.—*La montagne a enfanté une souris* = The mountain has brought forth a mouse.

Enfer.—*Cette cuisinière fait toujours un feu l'enfer* = This cook always keeps a tremendous fire.

Enfermer.—*Il ne s'agit pas d'enfermer le loup dans la bergerie* = We must not shut up the wolf among the sheep.

Enfiler.—*Je ne suis pas venu ici pour enfiler des perles* = I did not come here to pick straws.

s'Enfiler.—*Cela ne s'enfile pas comme des perles* = It is more difficult to do than it looks.

Enfin.—*Enfin, où voulez-vous en venir?* = In short, what are you driving at?

Enfoncé.—*Il est enfoncé* [familiar] = He is done for.

Enfonceur.—*C'est un enfonceur de portes ouvertes* = He is a boaster.

Enfourner.—*A mal enfourner, on fait les pains cornus* = A good start is of paramount importance [literally, By setting in badly, one makes angular loaves.]

Engager.—*Cela ne vous engage à rien* = That does not pledge you to anything.

s'Engager.—*Il vient de s'engager en Algérie* = He has just enlisted in Algeria.

Comment vous êtes-vous engagé dans une si mauvaise affaire? = How came you to get involved into such a miserable affair?

Engendrer.—*C'est un joyeux camarade qui n'engendre pas la mélancolie* = He is a merry companion who does not breed melancholy.

Engin.—*Mieux vaut engin que force* = Policy goes beyond strength.

s'Engouer.—*Je me demande comment il a pu s'engouer de cette personne* = I wonder how he can have got infatuated with that person.

Engraisser.—*Il engraisse de malédictions* = He thrives on curses.

Énigme.—*Voilà le mot de l'énigme* = The mystery is explained. That is the answer to the riddle.

Cette énigme est un vrai casse-tête chinois = This riddle is a real Chinese puzzle.

Enlever.—*Le morceau a été superbement enlevé* = The piece was played with splendid spirit.

Ennemi.—*Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien* = Leave well alone.

C'est autant de pris sur l'ennemi = It is so much saved, so much to the good.

Notre ennemi, c'est notre maître,
Je vous le dis en bon Français * =
[LA FONTAINE.]

Our real enemy is our master: I tell you so as a true Gaul that I am.

Ami au prêter, ennemi au rendre = A friend to borrowing, but not to paying.

Un ennemi déclaré = An open enemy.

Il n'y a point de petit ennemi = The smallest people may prove dangerous enemies.

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* *Notre ennemi, c'est notre maître.* This saying, unpleasantly suggestive as it is, is considered by some competent critics as an embodiment of the truly French spirit of independence. As to La Fontaine's statement, *Je vous le dis en bon français*, I may, I think, safely assert that it is not to be taken in the rather idle sense: "I tell you so plainly, in good French." In fact, the expression in this sense was unknown in the 17th century, and I am satisfied that La Fontaine, with his caustic temperament, intended his statement to refer to the national spirit of his countrymen, whose fierce assumption of independence was later on to proclaim *urbi et orbi*, among the "immortal principles of 1789," that of Equality (?), which logically implies the abolition of all *mastership!*

I have, therefore, adopted the rendering: "I tell you so, like a true Gaul that I am," and have accordingly given the word Français a capital initial, although this does not occur in the printed work.

s'Énoncer.—*Ce que l'on conçoit bien s'énonce clairement* = [BOILEAU, *L'Art Poétique.*]
What is clearly conceived is clearly expressed.

Enrager.—*Prendre patience en enrageant* = To swallow an affront, or put up with an annoyance, with constrained resignation.

Il se débattait comme un enragé = He was struggling like a madman.

Ils ont mangé de la vache enragée = They suffered great hardships and privations.

Qui veut tuer son chien, dit qu'il est enragé = [See CHIEN.]

s'Enrichir.—*Qui paye ses dettes s'enrichit* = He that pays his debts grows rich.

Enseigne.—*Je suis logé à la même enseigne que vous* = I am no better off than you—your case is exactly mine.

Le pauvre diable couchait à l'enseigne de la lune = The unfortunate fellow slept in the open air.

C'est une enseigne à bière = It is a wretched picture, *i.e.*, only fit for a sign-post.

Ils ne l'auront qu'à bonnes enseignes = They shall not have it except on proper terms, on good security.

À telles enseignes que . . . = The proof of it is that . . . So much so that . . .

À bon vin point d'enseigne = Good wine needs no bush. [See note on BOUCHON.]

Entendeur.—*À bon entendeur, salut* = A word to the wise.

Entendre.—*Je n'entends pas de cette orielle-là* = I am deaf on that side.

À les entendre = If we are to believe them.

Je ne l'entends pas ainsi = That is not the view I take of the matter; That does not suit me.

Cela ne sera pas, entendez-vous? = It shall not be so, I tell you.

Comment l'entendez-vous? = What do you mean by it?

Elle ne veut pas en entendre parler = She will not hear of it.

Le sage entend à demi-mot = Wise men know how to take a hint.

On ne sait plus à qui entendre = There is no knowing now whom to listen to.

Il entend ne rien promettre de ce qu'il croira ne pouvoir tenir = He does not intend to make any promise that he thinks he could not keep.

En louant ainsi son livre, j'entends parler du fond, non de la forme = In thus praising his book, I allude to the matter, not to the style.

Il n'entend rien aux affaires = He knows nothing about business.

Il n'y entend pas malice = He does not mean anything unkind.

Je n'entends pas raillerie là-dessus = I will not stand a joke on this subject.

Peu de personnes entendent la fine plaisanterie = Few people can jest delicately.

Il m'a laissé entendre ; ~~il m'a fait entendre que~~ . . . = He gave me to understand that . . .

Il ne voudra jamais entendre raison * = He will never listen to reason.

Faites comme vous l'entendrez = Just do as you please.

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* I would call the reader's attention here to the idiomatic difference of meaning between *Entendre la raison* and *Entendre raison*, a difference to which I have frequently alluded in my Examination papers without eliciting a satisfactory answer. *Entendre la raison* simply means, "To listen to the particular motive why," whilst *Entendre raison* means, "To be reasonable, to listen to reason," quite another thing. Thus, when the historic miller of Sans-Souci declines to sell his mill to his royal neighbour of Potsdam, he timidly observes :

Entendez la raison,
Sire ; je ne peux pas vous vendre ma maison :
Mon vieux père y mourut ; mon fils y vient de naître.
C'est mon Potsdam à moi = —ANDRIEUX.

He would never have presumed to tell his Majesty Frederic II. of Prussia : *Entendez donc raison, Sire.* For the result would soon have followed *à la prussienne*, and Sans-Souci would undoubtedly have shared the fate of Silesia, and certain other provinces.

Je vous entends : Néron m'apprend par votre voix,
Qu'en vain Britannicus s'assure sur mon choix = [RACINE.]

I understand you : Nero informs me through you that Britannicus relies in vain upon my choice.

Qui n'entend qu'une cloche, n'entend qu'un son = [See CLOCHE].

Il n'est pire sourd que célui qui ne veut pas entendre = There is none so deaf as he who will not hear.

s'Entendre.—*Cela s'entend* = That is a matter of course.

Il s'entend au jardinage = He understands gardening.

Ils s'entendent tous deux comme larrons en foire = [MOLIÈRE.]

They are as thick as thieves together.

Je m'entends bien = I know perfectly what I mean.

Il s'agit de nous entendre sur le prix = The point is to agree about the price.

Entendu.—*C'est entendu* = That's agreed.

Bien entendu = Of course ; Yes, of course.

Il est fort entendu = He is very shrewd, very skilful.

D'un air entendu = With a knowing look.

Entente.—~~*Un mot*~~, *une phrase à double* ~~*entente*~~ = ~~A word,~~ a phrase with a double meaning.—[See note on COÛTER.]

L'entente est au diseur = Everybody has a right to put his own meaning on what he says.

s'Enticher.—*Il s'est entiché de ces étranges idées* = He got infatuated with those strange notions.

Entorse.—*Je me suis donné une entorse au pied* = I sprained my ankle.

Ce serait donner une entorse à la vérité = It would be tantamount to twisting truth.

Entraîner.—*Cela entraînerait de fâcheuses conséquences* = That would entail bad consequences.

Ce cheval est bien entraîné = This horse is well trained.

Entrée.—*Les entrées de faveur sont suspendues* = The orders, the free admissions, are suspended.

Cette marchandise ne paie pas d'entrée = These goods pay no duty.

Elle va faire son entrée dans le monde = She is about to come out. She is going to make her first appearance in society.

Son talent lui donne entrée partout = His talent secures his admission everywhere.

Entrefaites.—*Sur ces entrefaites* = Meanwhile.

Entreprendre.—*Quelle raison pouvait-il avoir de l'entreprendre ainsi?* = What could his motive be for setting upon him as he did?

Entrer.—*Je n'entre pas là-dedans* = I will not meddle with that; I'll have nothing to do with that.

Il est entré de plein pied en matière = He came straight to the point; *In medias res.*

Cela n'entre pas dans mes vues = That does not tally with my purpose, with my ideas.

Dès que ces considérations entrent en ligne, il devient impossible de s'entendre = The moment considerations of this kind are brought to bear upon the subject, there is no understanding possible.

Cela doit entrer en ligne de compte; faites-le entrer en ligne de compte = That should come into account; Take it into account.

Il entre au moins dix mètres d'étoffe dans cette robe = That dress takes at least ten metres of stuff.

Entrevoir.—*Je n'ai fait que les entrevoir* = I only caught a glimpse of them.

J'entrevois de sérieux obstacles = I anticipate serious obstacles.

Envergure.—*C'est une entreprise de grande envergure* = It is a very serious undertaking—on a large scale.

Envers.—*À l'envers* = Inside out.

Une tête à l'envers = A mad-cap.

Gens à deux envers = Deceitful people.

Ses affaires sont à l'envers = His affairs are in a hopeless condition.

Je le défendrai envers et contre tous = I will take his part against all comers.

Envi.—*À l'envi* = With emulation [in Low Latin, *ad invidiam*].

Les chevaliers avaient dépensé à l'envi l'un de l'autre = [De Barante.]

The knights had vied with each other in expense.

Envie.*—*Il vaut mieux faire envie que pitié* = Better be envied than pitied.

Ce n'est pas l'envie qui lui en manque = It isn't for want of inclination.

Envoyer.—*Envoyez-le promener* = Send him to his business [familiarly, to Jericho or to Coventry].

Épargner.—*Qui épargne gagne* = Saving is getting.

Un sou épargné est un sou gagné = A penny saved is a penny got.

Épater.—*C'est épatant* [familiar] = It is wonderful.

Ils en étaient épatés = They were amazed at it.

Épaule.—*Cela fait hausser les épaules* = It is pitiful.

Que sa présence me pèse sur les épaules ! = [Molière.]

How dreadfully tired I am of seeing him !

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* *Envie*, properly envy, Latin *invidia*—"*L'envie* est plus irréconciliable que la haine."—La Rochefoucauld. It also expresses (1) a mere wish—"Les voyages . . . accroissent ordinairement l'envie de voyager."—Regnard ; (2) a want, a longing for—*Avoir envie* de boire de dormir, &c.

Note the expressions: *Faire envie*, to excite envy, jealousy ; *Porter envie*, to feel envious ; *Être digne d'envie*, to have a fate worthy of being envied :

"Qu'on est digne d'envie
Lorsqu'en perdant la force, on perd aussi la vie."
—Corneille.

Passer son envie, to gratify one's wish, one's longing ; *Faire passer à quelqu'un l'envie de . . .* , to cure some one of a given practice or propensity.

Again, note the expression *À l'envi*, with emulation, that is, "à qui mieux mieux" [in Low Latin, *ad invidiam.*]

"Les peuples à l'envi marchent à ta lumière."
—Racine.

Envie also expresses technically a birth-mark on the body, and a hang-nail, which is similarly called in German *Neid-nagel.*—Mariette's Edition of Coppée's *Luthier de Crémone*, p. 62.

Je lui ai donné un bon coup d'épaule = [See COUP.]
Il a été mis à la porte par les oreilles et les deux épaules = He was ignominiously turned out by the head and shoulders.
Il le fera par-dessus l'épaule = He will do it "over the left."

Épée.—*Qui se sert de l'épée périra par l'épée* = Harm watch, harm catch.
Un coup d'épée dans l'eau = [See EAU.]
Toute la garnison fut passée au fil de l'épée = The whole garrison was put to the sword.
N'avoir que la cape et l'épée = [See CAPE.]
Ils l'ont poursuivi l'épée dans les reins = They pressed him very hard.
Il jura qu'il me passerait son épée au travers du corps = [*Gil Blas.*]
He swore that he would run me through the body.
Rien d'assuré : point de franche lippée ;
Tout à la pointe de l'épée = [LA FONTAINE.]
Nothing to depend upon : no free meals ; everything to be fought for.
*C'est son épée de chevet** = He is his constant companion—He always has that word, or phrase, on his lips.
Ah ! ils n'ont que ce mot à la bouche, de l'argent ! Toujours parler d'argent. Voilà leur épée de chevet, de l'argent ! = [MOLIÈRE, *L'Avare.*]
Ah ! they are perpetually having this word on their lips, money ! They are ever talking of money. That's what they keep harping on, money !

Éperon.—*Il n'a ni bouche ni éperon* = He has neither wit nor courage.

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* *L'épée de chevet* is the sword that never leaves us, even at night [when it is deposited under the pillow]. Figuratively, it stands for the word or phrase one always has on one's lips by way of argument or defence.

Épiloguer.—*Vous épiloguez sur tout* = You find fault with everything.

Épine.—*Je lui ai tiré une épine du pied* = I pulled him through a difficulty [literally, I got a thorn out of his foot; *anglice*, out of his side.]

On trouve mainte épine où l'on cherche des roses = [REGNARD.]
One finds many thorns where one seeks roses.

N'ayez point pour ce fait l'esprit sur les épines = [MOLIÈRE.]
Do not worry yourself on that account.

C'est un vrai fagot d'épines; on ne sait par où le prendre = He is a queer, unmanageable man; there is no knowing how to deal with him.

Épingle.—*Une épingle par jour fait huit sous par an* = A pin a day is a groat a year.

Vous tirez sagement votre épingle du jeu = [MOLIÈRE.]
You are wise to have nothing to do with that business. You cleverly got out of that scrape.

Elle est toujours tirée à quatre épingles = She always is very smart. She always looks as if she came out of a band-box.

J'ai mis une épingle au bout de ma manche [familiar] = I made a special memorandum of it.

Épitaphe.—*Menteur comme une épitaphe* = A fulsome flatterer.

Épithète.—*Amas d'épithètes, mauvaises louanges* = Too many flattering epithets is no suitable praise.

Éponge.—*Je consens à passer l'éponge là-dessus* = I am willing to forget all about this.

On a pressé l'éponge = They drained him dry. They were extortionate.

C'est vouloir sécher la mer avec des éponges = That is to attempt an impossibility.

Il a une éponge dans le gosier = He is very fond of drink.

Il boit comme une éponge = He drinks like a fish.

Époux.—*De jeunes époux* = A young married couple.

Épreuve.—*Je ne le prends qu'à l'~~épreuve~~* = I take it only on trial.

L'imprimeur m'a envoyé une seconde épreuve, une troisième épreuve = The printer sent me a revise, a second revise.

C'est un ami, ~~un serviteur~~ à toute épreuve = He is a devoted friend, ~~a faithful servant~~.

Il est à l'épreuve de l'argent, à l'épreuve de toute tentation = He is proof against bribes, against all temptation.

A l'épreuve de la pluie (ou de l'eau), du feu = Water-proof, fire-proof.

Épuiser.—*Le livre est épuisé* = The book is out of print.

Équipage.—*L'équipage de Jean de Paris* = The Lord Mayor's state-coach.

Il roule équipage = He keeps his carriage.

Nous voilà dans un bel équipage = We are in a pretty plight.

Équipée.—*La belle équipée !* = A nice kettle of fish !

Éreinté.—*Je suis éreinté* = I am done up [literally, I have no backbone left.]

Ermite.—*Quand le diable est vieux, il se fait ermite* = [See DIABLE.]

Erreur.—*Erreur n'est pas compte* = Errors excepted. Error is no crime.

Qui gai fait une erreur la boit à repentance = He who errs at pleasure will repent at leisure.

Escalier.*—*L'esprit de l'escalier lui viendra en aide à la seconde séance* = His afterthoughts [on the staircase, after leaving the company] will help him on the next occasion.

Escampette.—*Il a pris* [redacted] *la poudre d'escampette* = He scampered away.

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* The expression *Esprit d'escalier* applies to a happy thought or good idea or argument that may occur to a person *on the staircase*, after leaving a meeting or interview. Who has not occasionally experienced something of the kind ?

Escient.—*Je parle à bon escient* = I speak knowingly.

Esclave.—*Il a toujours été esclave de sa parole* = He always kept his word.

Espèce.—*Dans l'espèce* (a legal term) = In the case in question.

Il vous paiera en espèces sonnantes = He will pay you in hard cash.

Espiègle.*—*Cette jeune fille est une petite espiègle* = She is a roguish, sprightly lass.

Espionnage.—*Espionnage délictueux* = Misdemeanour.

Espionnage criminel = Felony.

Espoir.—*L'espoir fait vivre* = Hope is life.

Esprit.—*L'esprit court les rues* = Wit is a drug in the market.

Les beaux esprits se rencontrent = Wits jump together.

Il a l'esprit bien fait = He is good-tempered.

Il pétille d'esprit; Il a de l'esprit comme quatre = He is remarkably witty.

Il a de l'esprit jusqu'au bout des doigts = [See DOIGT.]

Elle a l'esprit vit = She is quick-witted.

Les esprits médiocres condamnent d'ordinaire tout ce qui passe leur portée = [LA ROCHEFOUCAULD.]

Common-minded people generally condemn what is beyond their understanding.

Il a eu le bon esprit de garder le silence = He had sense enough to remain silent.

Cela ne me serait jamais venu à l'esprit = I should never have thought of that.

Esprit de vertige = Spirit of infatuation.

Nul n'aura de l'esprit, hors nous et nos amis = [MOLIÈRE, *Les Femmes Savantes*.]

No one shall have any wit, except ourselves and our friends.

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* *Espiègle, Espièglerie.* From the Latin *speculum*, a mirror, through the German *Spiegel.* The latter word, as remarked by Scheler, having entered into the compound *Eulen-spiegel* [literally, mirror of owls], which is the name of the hero—15th century—in a well-known literary composition, translated into French under the title, "Tiel-Ulespiègle," has supplied our French word *espiègle*, in allusion to that facetious personage who is the type of *espièglerie.*

L'œuvre a été conduite jusqu'ici avec esprit de suite = The work has thus far been carried on with consistency.

La lettre tue et l'esprit vivifie = The letter killeth but the spirit giveth life.

Le malin esprit = The evil spirit.

Les esprits forts savent-ils qu'on les appelle ainsi par ironie ? = [LA BRUYÈRE.]

Are strong-minded people aware that it is ironically they are called so?

Il est bien dans l'esprit de ses chefs = He stands well with his chiefs.

Il a l'esprit aux talons = His brains are a wool-gathering.

Quand on court après l'esprit, on trouve la sottise = He who exerts himself to be witty proves himself a fool.

L'esprit qu'on veut avoir gâte celui qu'on a = [GRESSET.]

The wit one tries to have spoils that which one has.

Reprenez vos esprits = Recover yourself.

Essayer.—*Il n'en coûte rien d'essayer* = You can but try.

Essieu.—*Trop chargé, l'essieu rompt* = Everything in moderation.

Essuyer.—*J'ai essuyé un refus* = I met with a refusal.

Estoc.—*Frapper d'estoc et de taille* = To thrust and cut.

Estomac.—*Le creux de l'estomac* = The pit of the stomach.

Estropier.—*Vous avez estropié ce passage* = You mutilated that passage.

Étage.—*Son menton sur son sein descend à double étage* = [BOILEAU, *Le Lutrin.*]

His chin comes down with a fold on his breast.

Étalage.—*Il fait étalage de son savoir* = He makes a show of his learning.

Étape.*—*Nous avons brûlé l'étape* = We went through without stopping.

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* *Étape*, halting-place. Originally, it meant the market-place, where all merchants were obliged to bring their goods for sale. Then, by extension, the word meant a city where a certain trade was carried

État.—*La maison est en bon état* = The house is in good repair.

— *Si vous louez, faites faire un état des lieux* = If you let, have an inventory made of the premises, fixtures, &c.

Je fais peu d'état de ses menaces = I care but little for his threats.

— *Il est en état de se défendre* = He is able to take care of himself.

— *Il en fait une affaire d'état* = He makes a mountain of it.

— *Les choses restent en l'état* = Things remain *in statu quo*. Elliptically: *dans l'état où elles étaient*, As they were.

— *Je l'ai trouvé dans tous ses états* [familiar] = I found him in a great state of excitement.

Éteindre.—*Soie et satin, velours, hermine, éteignent le feu de la cuisine* = [See Cuisine.]

s'Étendre.—*Je ne veux pas m'étendre sur ce sujet* = I will not dwell on this subject.

Éteuf.—*Il court après son éteuf* = He endeavours to recover his loss.

Il renvoya l'éteuf = He sent back the ball, giving his man as good as he had brought. He gave him a Roland for his Oliver.

Étincelle.—*Petite étincelle engendre grand feu* = Let us beware of small beginnings.

Étiquette.—*Ne jugez pas sur l'étiquette* = Do not judge from appearances.

Il tient à l'étiquette = He stands upon ceremony.

Étoffe.—*Il y a de l'étoffe chez ce garçon* = This is a promising lad.

Étoile.—*Ils ont dû coucher à la belle étoile* = [See Coucher.]

Il prétend leur faire voir des étoiles en plein midi = He is trying to bamboozle them.

Une étoile filante = A shooting star.

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on. "Alexandrie, étant devenue la seule étape, cette étape grossit" [Montesquieu, *Esprit des Lois*, xxi.] Later on, the word *étape* expressed the supply of food and forage given to the troops, and finally, the quarters where the soldiers on march stop for the night, and where they receive their ration.

Étoupe.—*Cela a mis le feu aux étoupes* = It added fuel to the flame.

Étourdir.—*Il a mangé une côtelette pour étourdir la grosse faim* = He ate up a mutton chop to stay his stomach.

Les dentistes aujourd'hui s'y prennent très bien pour étourdir la douleur = Dentists nowadays manage very well to beguile the pain.

s'Étourdir.—*Il cherche à s'étourdir* = He seeks to forget his troubles.

Être.—*Monsieur y est-il ?—Non, Monsieur n'y est pas* = Is the gentleman in ?—No, my master is not at home.

Je n'y suis pour personne = I am not at home for any one.

J'y suis = I am ready.

Oh ! j'y suis maintenant = Oh ! I see now ; I understand.

Je n'y suis pour rien = I have had nothing to do with it.

N'y suis-je point encore ? = [LA FONTAINE.] Don't I reach it yet ?

Êtes-vous des nôtres ?—Oui, j'en suis = Will you be one of our party ?—Yes, I'll join.

J'y suis pour quelques actions = I have a few shares in the concern.

Il n'en est rien = That is not the case.

Il n'en sera rien = There will be nothing of the kind.

Il n'en a rien été = Nothing came of it.

Il en est de vous comme de tout le monde = It is with you as with everybody else.

Il en est de même de nous = It is the same with us.

Ça y est = That's it ! All right !

Nous en avons été pour notre peine = We had our trouble for nothing.

Voilà ce que c'est = That is the consequence of it.

Vous voyez où j'en suis = You see how I am situated.

Où en êtes-vous de votre livre ? = How are you getting on with your book ?

Où en étions-nous hier ? = Where did we leave off yesterday ?

Serait-ce que le luxe s'en va? = Can it be because luxury is going out?

Cela n'est pas pour nous déplaire = That is not calculated to displease us.

Nous sommes très bien ensemble = We are on very good terms together.

Il ne m'est rien = He is neither kith nor kin to me.

Il est à se griser dans quelque trou =

[A. DE MUSSET, *Fantasio.*]

He is engaged intoxicating himself in some wretched hole.

Où en sont les choses actuellement? = How do matters stand now?

N'était, n'eût été cette circonstance = Were it not, had it not been for this circumstance.

Tâche délicate, s'il en fut jamais = A difficult task, if ever there was one.

Il est des moments où les minutes semblent des siècles à celui qui croit saisir la victoire =

[DUC D'AUMALE.]

There are times when minutes seem like centuries to him who believes that he is about to snatch victory.

Prenne qui voudra le monopole d'exploiter l'Egypte du jour et de dépouiller les fellahs, l'Egypte, dans ses quarante siècles, est à la France de par le génie de Champollion et de Mariette =

[JAMES DARMESTETER, *Essais Orientaux.*]

Let those who like assume the monopoly of using modern Egypt to their own profit and of stripping the fellahs, Egypt, in her forty centuries, belongs to France by the genius of Champollion and of Mariette.

Cela étant = Such being the case.

Toujours est-il que . . . = The fact remains that . . .

Il était une fois . . . = There was once upon a time . . .

Quoi qu'il en soit = Be that as it may.

Hé bien! soit = Well, let it be so.

Si ce n'est que = Except that.

On ne peut pas être et avoir été = You cannot eat your cake and have it still.

Étrenner.—*On vous attend pour étrenner le nouvel hôtel* = They are waiting for you to be the first to use the new hotel.

Êtres.—*Je connais tous les êtres de la maison* * = I know all the ins and outs of the house.

Étrier.—*Il a maintenant le pied dans l'étrier* = He is now in a fair way to success.

Il est ferme sur ses étriers = He stands on good ground; He is steady in his views.

J'ai été bien aise de lui tenir les étriers = I was glad to give him a lift.

Vous ne pouvez pas partir sans boire le vin de l'étrier = You cannot go without drinking the parting cup. [See Coup.]

Se lancer à franc étrier dans le vaste domaine des conjectures = To launch at full speed in the vast field of conjectures.

Il faut toujours avoir son paquet prêt et le pied à l'étrier pour voyager dans l'autre monde = [Voltaire.]

One must always have one's bundle ready, with one foot in the stirrup, to set off for the next world.

Le pied de l'étrier = The left fore-foot of the horse.

Étriller.—*Nous avons été rudement étrillés dans cet hôtel* = We got unmercifully fleeced at that hotel.

Étrivières.—*On lui a donné les étrivières* = They gave him a good thrashing.

Étroit.—*Ils sont à l'étroit, ~~ils vivent à l'étroit~~* = They are in narrow circumstances.

Il a la conscience étroite comme la manche d'un cordelier = [See Cordelier.]

Étude.—*Ce notaire a vendu son étude* = That notary has sold his practice.

Éveil.—*Être en éveil* = To be on the watch, on one's guard.

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* *Connaître les êtres de la maison* is to know the different parts and arrangements of a house. The word was formerly spelt (more correctly) *aîtres*, being derived from the Latin *atrium*, *atria*.

Éveillé.—*Cet enfant est éveillé comme une potée de souris* = This child is as brisk as a bee.

Éventer.—*La mèche a été éventée* = The secret got found out.

Évêque. — *Se faire d'évêque meunier, devenir d'évêque meunier* = To come down in the world.

Crosse de bois, évêque d'or ; crosse d'or, évêque de bois = The Church was most honoured when the clergy was poor.

Un chien regarde bien un évêque = A cat may look at a king.

Évidence.—*Il se met trop en évidence* = He makes himself too conspicuous.

Exciper.—*Il excipe de sa qualité d'étranger pour échapper au service militaire* = He pleads his qualification as a foreigner to escape the military service.

Excuse.—*Je vous fais mes excuses* = I beg your pardon.

Excuser. —*Excusez! comme vous y allez!* = Upon my word, that's cool of you!

Excusez du peu! = That's all, is it? (ironically). How very modest!

s'Excuser.—*Je m'en suis excusé* = I declined doing it.

Qui s'excuse s'accuse = He who comes forward with excuses thereby pleads guilty.

s'Exécuter.—*Il s'est exécuté de bonne grâce* = He complied with good grace.

Exemple.—*Ah! par. exemple; c'est trop fort* = Why, really! this is too much.

Il a été sévèrement puni, parce qu'on voulait faire un exemple = He was severely punished, because they wanted to make an example of him.

Il prêche d'exemple = He practises what he preaches.

Expliquer.—*Explique cela qui pourra* = It is unaccountable. Let him explain that who can.

s'Expliquer.—*Je ne m'explique pas cela* = I cannot understand that.

Exploiter.—*Ils ont exploité son inexpérience* = They took advantage of his inexperience.

Extrême.—*Les extrêmes se touchent* = Extremes meet. Too far east is west.

F.

Fable.—*Elle est la fable de toute la ville* = She is the laughing-stock of the whole town.

Fabrique.—*Prix de fabrique* = Cost price.

C'est de sa fabrique = This is of his own doing.

Face.—*Il a une face réjouie* = He has a jolly countenance.

Il fera face à ses affaires = He will meet all his engagements.

Les affaires ont changé de face = Matters have assumed another aspect.

Ils ont fait volte-face = They wheeled round.

J'ai considéré l'affaire sous toutes ses faces = I have considered the matter in all its bearings.

Sauver "la face" est une expression chinoise apparemment bien connue d'une autre race jaune à Madagascar = To save "the face," *i.e.*, appearances, is a Chinese expression apparently well known to another yellow race at Madagascar.

Jouer à pile ou face = To play at head or tail; to toss.

Facilité.—*Il n'a aucune facilité* = He has no aptitude.

Façon.—*C'est un nouveau tour de sa façon* = This is a new trick of his.

Je vais lui servir un plat de ma façon = I'll give him a bone to pick.

La façon coûte cher = The workmanship is dear.

À la façon des Grecs = After the manner of the Greeks.

De façon ou d'autre = Somehow or other.

Sans façon = Without ceremony.

Il est plein de façons = He is very ceremonious.

Il a bonne façon = He is good-looking.

De toute façon, il me le faut = Anyhow, I must have it.

C'est un tailleur à façon = This tailor makes up your own materials.

Cela n'a ni mine ni façon = That has neither grace nor shape.

En aucune façon = By no means.

Je lui en donnerai de la bonne façon = I will give it him well.

Il s'en donne de la bonne façon = He is going on at a fine rate.

De façon que . . . = So that . . .

C'est une simple façon de parler = It is only a way of speaking.

se Façonner.—*Il s'y façonnera* = He will get accustomed to it.

Faction.—*J'étais en faction* = I was mounting guard.

Fagot.—*C'est un fagot d'épines; on ne sait par où le prendre* = [See ÉPINE.]

Il y a fagots et fagots = All men are not alike.

Cet écrit sent un peu le fagot = This writing is rather tainted with heresy.

Fagoter.—*Comme vous voilà fagoté!* = What a fright you have made of yourself!

Faible.—*Je connais le fort et le faible de l'affaire* = I know the ins and outs of the affair.

Il a toujours eu un faible pour elle = He always was partial to her.

Il a les reins trop faibles pour un pareil poste = He is not up to the mark for such a post.

Faillir.—*J'ai failli tomber* = I nearly fell down.

Faim.—*Je meurs de faim* = I am starving.

On les a réduits par la faim = They got starved out.

Ils se sont laissés mourir de faim = They starved themselves to death.

La faim chasse le loup hors du bois = Hunger will break through stone walls.

C'est la faim qui épouse la soif = It is one beggar marrying another.

Faire.—*Que faire?* = What is to be done?

Pourquoi faire? = What for?

Comment faire? = How am I to go to work?

On fait ce qu'on peut = One does one's best.
Il a eu vite fait de s'en aller = He soon got away.
Cela ne me fait ni chaud ni froid = It's all the same to me.
Faites de votre mieux, c'est tout ce qu'on vous demande = Do your best, that's all that is required of you.
Qu'est-ce que cela me fait? = What is that to me?
J'ai beau dire: rien n'y fait = My talking is of no use: it has no effect.
Il ferait beau le voir oser désobéir = I should like to see him dare to disobey.
Qu'est-ce que cela fait?—Mais, cela fait beaucoup = What difference does it make?—Why, it makes all the difference.
C'est bien fait; cela vous apprendra = It serves you right; it will teach you to know better.
Il est un peu mou: on le fait aller comme on veut = He is rather soft: you can do with him what you like.
Il n'en fait qu'à sa tête = He is very self-willed.
C'en est fait = It is all over.
Il a encore fait des siennes [*farces* understood] = He has been at his tricks again.
Il en fait de belles = He behaves nicely, very.
Il l'a fait arrêter, puis fusiller = He got him locked up, then shot.
Il n'a que faire de votre argent = He does not want your money.
Il fera son chemin tout seul = He will get on in the world by his own merit.
Mon fils aîné faisait jusqu'à cent milles par jour sur sa bicyclette = My eldest son would ride no less than one hundred miles a day on his bicycle.
Que voulez-vous que j'y fasse? = I can't help it; how can I?
À chose faite point de remède = What is done cannot be helped.
Il n'en fera rien = He will do nothing of the kind.
Où avez-vous été pour être ainsi fait? = Where have you been to be in such a state, in such a mess?
J'ai fait toutes les boutiques pour trouver le pareil = I tried every shop to match it.

Notre jeune auteur fera un jour plus large, plus étoffé = Our young author's composition will some day have a wider grasp and more substance.

Il ne fait que de venir = He has only just arrived.

Il ne fait qu'aller et venir = He keeps going to and fro.

Ils font régulièrement la Saint-Lundi = They never work on Monday.

Ils font la noce = They enjoy themselves.

Il nous a fait faire antichambre = He kept us dancing attendance.

Je suis fait à son humeur = I am used to his temper.

Il est mal fait = He is ill-shaped.

Vous aurez fort à faire = You will have a good deal of trouble.

Qui bien fera, bien trouvera = Industry shall be rewarded.

Laissez-moi faire = Leave it to me.

Laissez-le faire = Leave him alone.

Il fait très cher vivre maintenant à Paris, et surtout dans la banlieue = Living in Paris is now very dear, and especially so in the suburbs.

Si faire se peut = If it can be done.

Ils ne font qu'un = They are hand and glove together.

Il n'a fait ni une ni deux ; il les a chassés = He stood no nonsense; he turned them out.

Comme vous le faites aller ! = How you do send him about ! You make him do exactly what you like.

J'ai fait venir le médecin = I sent for the doctor.

Allons faire un tour en ville = Let us go for a walk in the town.

Il ne fait pas bon se fier à lui = It is not safe to trust him.

Combien faites-vous ces poulets ? = How much do you want for these chickens ?

Ces lapins ne sont pas faits = Those rabbits are too young.

C'est maintenant un homme fait = He is now a full-grown man.

Faites nous voir = Let us see ; Just show us.

Faites-lui dire = Send him word.

Son oncle lui fait 500 *livres sterling par an* = His uncle allows him £500 a year.

En fait de vêtements, je n'en fais plus faire; j'achète du tout fait = With regard to clothes, I never have any made to order now; I buy everything ready made.

Ce qui est fait est fait = What is done cannot be helped.

C'est un prix fait = It is a set price.

À qui est-ce à faire? = Whose deal is it?

On a fait la lumière sur cette affaire = The affair got investigated and cleared up.

Lettre de faire part = A circular letter to announce a marriage, a birth, or a death.

Il m'a fait part de son intention = He informed me of his intention.

Quel fond peut-on faire sur ces chiffres? = What reliance can be placed, what calculation can be based, upon those figures?

Cela fait très bien dans le paysage = It looks very well.

Ma surprise est, fis-je, sans seconde . . .
—Oui, fit-elle . . . [MOLIÈRE.]

My surprise, said I, is extreme . . .—Yes, said she . . .

Nous causerons de cela chemin faisant = We shall talk about that on our way.

Cessez donc, cela me fait mal = Have done, that hurts me.

Personne ne fait le mal pour le plaisir de faire le mal, dit Bacon; que n'est-ce parfaitement vrai! = No man, says Bacon, doth a wrong for the wrong's sake; would that it were perfectly true!

Nous faisons de la musique tous les soirs = We have some music every evening.

Faites attention, je vous en prie = Pray, do pay attention.

C'est un esprit mal fait = He is a wrong-headed fellow.

J'ai fait semblant de ne rien voir = I pretended to see nothing.

Il fait la pluie et le beau temps dans la maison = He rules the roast in the house.

Ne faites pas l'aumône sans discernement = Do not give alms indiscriminately.

Je tâcherai de vous le faire avoir = I will try to procure it for you.

Avez-vous fait ma couverture? = Have you turned down my bed?

Cela fera très bien l'affaire = That will do very well.

Il fait des armes tous les jours = He fences every day.

On lui avait fait tort: le juge a fait droit à sa demande = He had been wronged: the judge granted his request.

Ne fais pas à autrui ce que tu ne voudrais pas qu'on te fît = Do as you would be done by.

J'en fais grand cas = I set much value upon it.

Ne faites pas la sourde oreille = Do not turn a deaf ear.

Il a fait tout de suite le gros dos = He set up his back at once.

Ne faites donc pas ainsi la petite bouche = Do not be so dainty.

Elle ne fait jamais la moue, oh jamais! = She never pouts, she never sulks, not she!

Pourquoi fais-tu la grimace? = Why do you grin?

Faites-lui bonne mine, bon accueil = Receive him kindly.

Ils font maigre en Carême = They eat no flesh in Lent.

Je ne fais pas gras le Vendredi saint = I abstain from meat on Good Friday.

Ces fleurs font l'admiration, l'étonnement de tous les passants = These flowers are admired by all the passers-by.

Ce mauvais sujet fait le désespoir de sa famille = This bad fellow is the despair of his family.

Son frère fait leur joie et leur bonheur = His brother is a source of joy and happiness to them.

C'est à vous à faire les premières avances = It is for you to take the first step.

Il fait le bon apôtre = He plays the saint.

Elle fait la sainte Nitouche = She is very sanctimonious, and looks as if butter would not melt in her mouth.

Vous faites peur à cet enfant = You frighten that child.

Il fait bien des embarras = He is very fussy, and gives himself great airs.

Une bonne à tout faire = A maid of all work.

Il fait le brave, le fort = He gives himself out as plucky, as strong.

Il fait l'homme d'importance, le grand seigneur = He sets up as a great personage.

Il fait le difficile = He affects to be hard to please.

Il fait le bon enfant = He assumes an easy-going, good-natured disposition.

Ne faites donc pas l'enfant = [See ENFANT.]

Ne faites pas l'étonné = Don't pretend to be surprised.

Ne faites pas l'ignorant, l'innocent = Don't affect to know nothing of it.

Il fait le malade = He shams illness.

Allons, ne faites donc pas le malin, le méchant, le matamore = Come, don't put on those knowing looks, those fierce, ferocious airs.

Il fait le pauvre, le riche = He gives himself out as poor, as rich.

Il fait le savant = He sets up as a learned man.

Il est habile à faire le mort = He plays the dead man very cleverly.

Il fait déjà grand jour = It is daylight already.

Il commence à faire nuit de bonne heure = It is getting dark early.

Il fait noir comme dans un four = It is pitch dark.

Quel temps fait-il? = What sort of weather is it?

Quel temps il fait! = What weather!

Il fait du soleil, de l'orage, du vent, du brouillard = It is sunny, stormy, windy, foggy.

Il fait beau, mauvais, humide, chaud, doux, froid, glissant = It is fine weather, bad weather, it is damp, it is warm, it is mild, it is cold, it is slippery.

se Faire.—*Vous vous y ferez: on se fait à tout* = You will get used to it: Habit is a second nature.

Comment cela se fait-il? = How is that? How do you account for that?

Cela se fait tous les jours = That is done every day.

Paris ne s'est pas fait en un jour = Rome was not built in a day.

Je me fais fort de le prouver = I undertake to prove it.

Ils se sont fait jour à travers les rangs = They forced their way through the ranks.

Je suis en train de me faire la main = I am getting accustomed to the work.

Je me fais vieux = I am getting old.

Ne vous faites pas plus vieux que vous n'êtes = Don't pretend to be older than you are.

Il ne se fera pas prier = He will not want pressing.

Il se fait trop de mauvais sang = He frets too much.

Vous ne vous faites pas de bile, je vois = I see you take things easy.

Il se fait avec cela de jolis revenus = He gets a good income out of that.

La lumière commence à se faire sur ce mystère = That mystery is beginning to get cleared up.

Il se fait tard = It is getting late.

Fait.—*Voici le fait* = Here is the case.

Il est de fait que . . . = It is a fact that . . .

Je n'ai pas été mis au fait = I have not been let into the secret.

C'est l'homme le plus au fait de cette affaire = Of all men, he is the best acquainted with the particulars of the case.

Au fait! vous-dis-je = [RACINE, *Les Plaideurs.*]
Come to the point, I tell you.

Je ne me gênerai pas pour lui dire son fait = I shall not hesitate to tell him plainly what I think of his conduct.

Comment donc? Mais si fait! = Why, yes, to be sure.

Êtes-vous sûr de votre fait? = Are you sure of what you state?

Il a été pris sur le fait = He was caught in the act.

Je mets en fait que . . . = I maintain that . . .

Je songeais que tu serais bien mon fait, si tu savais lire et écrire = [*Gil Blas.*]

I was thinking that you would answer my purpose very well, if you could read and write.

Cette place sera justement son fait = That situation will suit him exactly.

C'est un fait accompli = It is done, irrevocably done.

J'ai toujours pris fait et cause pour vous = [See CAUSE.]

Je veux qu'on me distingue, et pour le trancher net,
L'ami du genre humain n'est point du tout mon fait =
[MOLIÈRE, *Le Misanthrope.*]

I want to be set apart, and, to speak plainly, the friend of the whole human race is not to be my man.

Un peuple ne peut être responsable des faits et gestes d'une poignée d'énergumènes = A whole nation cannot fairly be responsible for the doings of a handful of fanatics.

Je voudrais, m'en coûtat-il grand'chose,
Pour la beauté du fait, avoir perdu ma cause =
[MOLIÈRE, *Le Misanthrope.*]

Were it to cost me a good deal, I should like, for the beauty of the thing, to have lost my lawsuit.

Falloir.—*C'est un homme comme il faut* = He is a gentleman.

C'est un homme comme il en faut = He is one of those men that cannot be dispensed with.

Vous êtes l'homme qu'il me faut = You are the very man I want.

Il le faut = It must be so.

Vous n'étudiez pas comme il faut = You do not study as you should.

Que vous faut-il? = What do you want?

Il fallait les voir, les entendre = You should have seen them, heard them.

Il faudra bien qu'il cède = He shall have to give way.

Il va falloir y aller = There will be no keeping away from it.

Il faudra voir = We shall have to see to it.

J'ai fait ce qu'il fallait = I have done the requisite.

S'il faut que tu me déshonores! [MOLIÈRE.]
If you are to dishonour me!

Il n'en fallait pas davantage pour le vexer = It was sufficient to annoy him.

Il faut peu de chose à l'homme ici-bas, dit l'ermite de Goldsmith = Man wants but little here below, says Goldsmith's hermit.

C'est plus qu'il ne m'en faut = It is more than I want.

Combien s'en faut-il? = How much is wanting?

Il s'en est fallu de bien peu qu'il ne fût tué = He was nearly killed.

Il s'en faut de beaucoup que je sois content = I am far from being pleased.

Tant s'en faut = Far from it.

Tant s'en faut qu'au contraire = On the contrary, quite the reverse.

Familiarité.—*Ils vivent dans la plus grande familiarité* = They are on the most familiar terms.

Famille.—*Où peut-on être mieux qu'au sein de sa famille?* = There is no place like home.

Un fils de famille = A gentleman's son.

Famine.—*L'imprévoyante cigale criait famine* = The improvident grasshopper complained of the hardness of the times.

Fantaisie.—*Objets de fantaisie* = Fancy articles.

S'il vous en prend fantaisie = If you take a fancy to it.

Farce.—*Le jeune coquin fait ses farces* = The young rascal is sowing his wild oats.

Vous avez fait là une vilaine farce = You have been playing a bad trick.

Farine.—*D'un sac à charbon il ne saurait sortir blanche farine* = You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.—What can you expect from a pig but a grunt?

Fastidieux.*—*J'admets que l'ouvrage en question est un peu fastidieux, mais convenez aussi que vous êtes assez difficile* = I admit that the work in question is somewhat tedious; but you must also acknowledge that you are rather fastidious.

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* I have introduced this sentence to bring in juxtaposition the French *fastidieux* and the English "fastidious," two words the similitude of which is calculated to mislead. Both come from the Latin *fastidiosus*, which supplies equally, as may be seen in Horace, the notion of disgust

Fatigue.—*Nos troupiers sont rompus à la fatigue* = Our troopers are accustomed to fatigue.

Un habit de fatigue = A working-coat.

Des souliers de fatigue = Shoes for bad weather.

Faucher.—*Le temps fauche tout* = Time destroys everything.

se Faufiler.—*Il se faufile partout* = He creeps in everywhere.

Fausser.—*N'allez pas nous fausser compagnie* = Don't give us the slip.

Faute.—*À qui la faute ?* = Whose fault is it?

Une faute d'inattention = A slip.

Une faute d'impression = A misprint.

Il ne se fait pas faute d'en prendre = He helps himself freely.

Il a échoué, faute d'appui = He failed for want of support.

Faute de mieux = For want of anything better.

Ce n'est pas faute de demander = It is not for want of asking.

Venez sans faute = Come without fail.

Pourquoi rejeter la faute sur lui ? = Why lay the fault at his door?

Faux.—*Jouer, chanter faux* = To play, to sing out of tune.

C'était une fausse manœuvre = That was a wrong move.

J'ai fait un faux pas en sortant = I stumbled in going out.

Vous avez fait un faux pas en vous adressant à eux = You made a blunder in applying to them.

Je crains bien qu'il ne fasse fausse route = I am much afraid he is on the wrong track, going the wrong way to work.

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imparted and that of disgust experienced. The radical divergence between the two modern epithets is so far explained by that twofold acceptation of their Latin root. In fact, the French *fastidieux* corresponds to the *active* sense of *fastidiosus*, and means wearisome, of a nature to provoke *ennui*, whilst the English "fastidious" corresponds to its passive sense, and means disdainful, hard to please, of a disposition to feel or to affect *ennui.*

Cette table porte à faux = This table does not rest even.

Vos objections portent à faux = Your objections are not at all to the point.

Il plaide le faux pour savoir le vrai = He seeks to extract the truth by asserting a falsehood.

Il est faux comme un jeton = He is as false as a brass shilling.

Ne nous faites pas faux bond = [See BOND.]

Il est de faux dévots, ainsi que de faux braves = [MOLIÈRE.]

There are men who put on a show of devotion as others put on a show of bravery.

Ce n'est pas moi qui m'inscrirai en faux contre ce jugement = I am not the man to protest against such a verdict.

Faux-fuyant.—*Ce subtil faux-fuyant mérite qu'on le loue* = [MOLIÈRE.]

This subtle subterfuge deserves to be praised [literally, A by-path through which one can go unobserved.]

Fêlé.—*Les pots fêlés sont ceux qui durent le plus* = Ailing folks live the longest. A creaking door lasts very long.

Femme.—*Il descend de Coligny par les femmes* = He is a descendant of Coligny in the female line.

C'est une maîtresse femme = She is a superior woman.

Un conte de bonne femme = An old woman's story.

Il faut chercher une femme avec les oreilles plutôt qu'avec les yeux = A wife must be sought for her good name rather than for her good looks.

Prends le premier conseil d'une femme, et non le second * = Instinct is a better guide in a woman than reflection.

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* "A proverb of much wisdom," says Dr. Trench (*Proverbs and their Lessons*, p. 86); "for in processes of reasoning, out of which the second counsels would spring, women may and will be inferior to us; but in intuitions, in moral intuitions above all, they surpass us far; they have what Montaigne ascribes to them in a remarkable word, *l'esprit primesautier*, the leopard's spring, which takes its prey, if it be to take it at all, at the first bound."

Ce que femme veut, Dieu le veut = Woman's will is most tenacious.

Souvent femme varie,
Bien fol est qui s'y fie * =

Between a woman's yes or no,
There is no room for a pin to go.

La langue des femmes est leur épée, et elles ne la laissent pas rouiller = A woman's tongue is her sword, and she doesn't let it rust.

Femme qui parle latin,
Soleil qui luit tard au matin,
Et enfant nourri de vin,
Ne viennent à bonne fin † =

A woman that talks Latin, the sun that shines late in the morning, and a child brought up on wine, come to no good end.

Qui de femme honnête est séparé d'un don divin est privé = There is no greater misfortune for a man than to be parted from an honest wife.

Maison sans femme, corps sans âme = A house without a woman is a body without a soul.

On ne se doute pas de ce qu'il peut tenir d'argent dans la main d'une femme, surtout quand cette main est petite = [MEILHAC.]

You cannot imagine how much money a woman's hand can hold, especially when that hand is a small one.

Le diable bat sa femme = It rains and the sun shines at the same time.

Femme en puissance de mari [legal] = Feme-covert.

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* King Francis I. is credited with the origin of this often-quoted proverb. It is stated, and we have Brantôme's authority for the statement, that while talking with his sister, Marguerite d'Angoulême, about the fickleness of women, his Majesty actually engraved the saying with his own hand on one of the stained glass windows of the Castle of Chambord, using the diamond of his ring for the purpose.

† I think it right to state that I do not endorse any of the above ungallant maxims about women. I content myself with recording them for the sake of completeness.

Fendant.—*Il fait le fendant* = He swaggers; He is a bully.

Fendre.—*Nous avons fendu la presse* = We broke through the crowd.

—— *Il a gelé cette nuit à pierre fendre* = It froze very hard last night.

Fenêtre.—*Il jette son bien par les fenêtres* = He squanders his fortune.

Il faut passer par là ou par la fenêtre = It must be so; there is no alternative.

Fer.—*Il a toujours quelque fer qui loche* = There is always a screw loose, something amiss with him.

On lui a mis les fers aux pieds et aux mains = He was fettered hand and foot.

Il a une santé de fer = He has a strong constitution.

On n'est pas de fer = One is not made of iron; There is a limit to human strength.

Il faut battre le fer pendant qu'il est chaud = [See BATTRE.]

Il faut mettre les fers au feu = We must fall stoutly to work.

Cela ne vaut pas les quatre fers d'un chien = It is not worth a fig (a dog not being shod.)

—— *Il est tombé les quatre fers en l'air* = He fell on his back —the heels uppermost.

Cette affaire ne tient ni à fer ni à clou = That business has been badly settled; has been done loosely.

Quand on quitte les maréchaux, on paye les vieux fers = Before employing new tradesmen, the old ones should be paid off.

Férir.—*Sans coup férir* = Without striking a blow. [See note on SANS.]

Ferré.—*Il est ferré à glace sur la géométrie* = He is thoroughly conversant with geometry.

C'est un avaleur de charrettes ferrées = He is a fire-eater.

Fesse-Mathieu.*—*C'est un fesse-mathieu* = He is a regular skin-flint.

> *Vous avez, dit-on même, acquis en plus d'un lieu*
> *Le titre d'usurier et de Fesse-Mathieu* =
>
> [REGNARD.]

They even say that you have acquired in more than one place the title of usurer and of skin-flint.

Fête.—*Je me fais une fête de les recevoir* = I look forward with great pleasure to their visit.

Il ne s'était jamais vu à pareille fête = He had never come in for such luck.

Ce n'est pas tous les jours fête = Christmas comes round but once a year.

Aux bonnes fêtes les bons coups = The better the day, the better the deed.

La fête passée, adieu le saint = The saint's day over, farewell the saint!

Feu.—*Au feu! au feu!* = Fire! fire!

Il se mettrait au feu pour les servir = He would go through the fire to serve them.

J'en mettrais ma main au feu = I would swear to it.

Ils le font mourir à petit feu = They are killing him by inches.

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* *Fesse-Mathieu.* Here is, *quantum valeat*, an explanation of this odd expression:

Before his conversion, the Apostle St. Matthew was a publican, and in that capacity he made large profits, as is the case to this day in that corporation. Thus it came to be said of an usurer, *Il fait Saint Mathieu.* In the course of time, and in conformity with the usual drift of things, the saying got popularly corrupted into *fesse-mathieu.* It is in that form that it has come down to us, and the very disparaging term is now constantly employed to designate those people who make an illicit profit with their money. The epithet is also applied now to stingy people.

M. Edouard Thierry, however, traces the expression to a memorial festival of the Middle Ages called *Fête Mathieu*, when a kind of large wooden cash-box, called "la caisse de Saint Mathieu," was carried in the procession to collect the contributions of magistrates and others. The lookers-on would say, "Here come the fête-mathieu;" and eventually *fesse-mathieu* was substituted by some "*gavroche*" of the period, as those things invariably happen.

Il n'a jamais vu le feu = He never smelt gunpowder.

Il n'a ni feu ni lieu = He has neither house nor home.

La campagne engagée à si grand fracas contre la Chambre des Lords semble avoir fait long feu = The campaign begun with so much noise against the House of Lords seems to have completely miscarried.

Ils ont mis tout le pays à feu et à sang = They put the whole country to fire and sword.

Nous tirons trop souvent les marrons du feu pour les autres pays = We too often pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the benefit of other countries.

Cela a mis le feu aux étoupes = [See ÉTOUPE.]

Ce discours mit le feu aux poudres = That speech provoked a great uproar.

Il ne faut pas jouer avec le feu = One should not play with edge tools.

Je n'y ai vu que du feu = I was so dazzled that I saw nothing.

Le public n'y a vu que du feu = The public could make nothing of it.

Il a jeté feu et flamme = He flew into a passion.

Cet écrivain semble avoir jeté tout son feu = This writer seems to be used up.

Faire feu qui dure = To be sparing of one's resources.

On compte cent feux dans ce village = There are one hundred houses in this village.

Le feu le plus couvert est le plus ardent = In the coldest flint there is hot fire. Still waters run deep.

Ce n'est qu'un feu de paille = It is a mere flash in the pan.

La troupe a fait feu = The soldiers fired.

Il n'y a point de fumée sans feu, ni de feu sans fumée = There is no smoke without some fire.

Faites du feu dans le salon = Light a fire in the drawing-room.

Il n'est feu que de gros bois = No serious business can be done without capital. [See BOIS.]

Il n'est feu que de bois vert = The energy of youth is often useful.

Le jeune Napoléon, nous dit le poète, était de feu pour l'algèbre et de glace pour le latin * = Napoleon, when a boy, the poet tells us, was all fire for algebra and all ice for Latin.

Se jeter dans le feu pour éviter la fumée = To jump out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Si l'on n'est pas brûlé par le feu, ou est noirci par la fumée = Bad company is so far fatal, that if you escape being contaminated, you do get your fair name blackened.

Mon ~~joli petit~~ chien est marqué de feu = My ~~pretty little~~ dog is tan-spotted.

Feuille.—*L'imprimeur a tiré pour moi une bonne feuille* = The printer struck off a fair sheet for me.

Elle tremble comme une feuille = She trembles like an aspen-leaf.

Fève.—*Il a trouvé la fève au gâteau* = He has made a lucky discovery. He has hit the mark.

Fi.—*Pourquoi en faire fi ?* = Why turn up your nose at it ?

Adieu, donc. Fi du plaisir
Que la crainte peut corrompre ! =

[LA FONTAINE.]

Farewell, then! Away with the pleasure that fear can spoil.

Oh, le vilain ! fi donc ! = Oh, the naughty boy! For shame!

Ficelle.—*Il connait toutes les ficelles du métier* = He knows all the tricks of the trade.

Fiche.—*C'est une fiche de consolation* = It is a little bit of comfort.

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* *À genoux ! à genoux ! au milieu de la classe,*
L'enfant mutin,
Dont l'esprit est de feu pour l'algèbre, et de glace
Pour le latin !

Ainsi parlait le maître à l'élève indocile ;
Car l'écolier
Était du petit nombre ardent et difficile
À se plier. —A. DE BEAUCHESNE.

Fichu.*—*Un fichu drôle* = An awful rascal.

Fieffé.—*C'est un fripon fieffé* = He is an arrant knave.

Fier.†—*Fier comme un Écossais* = As proud as a Scotchman.
Fier comme Artaban ‡ = As proud as a peacock.

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* *Un fichu drôle; une fichue corvée*=An awful rascal; a wretched job. This word *fichu*, which properly designates a small article of female attire, a "neckerchief," is also a low term, which, however, is too commonly used not to find its place in this work.

I will venture to relate here an anecdote as an *étude de mœurs*, and at the same time as an illustration of the exact bearing of this questionable word. During the latter days of the Second Empire, the fashion prevailed, in and out of France, of ladies' evening dresses being made extremely long at the bottom, whilst *par contre* they were open extremely low at the top (which once made Archbishop Whately remark at Dublin that he had never seen anything of the kind since he had a wet nurse !) At an official ball in Paris, a "lady" wearing such a dress got it trodden upon by a gentleman, who most assuredly couldn't help it. The incensed dame turned round upon the unlucky party, exclaiming loudly and fiercely : "*Fichu maladroit, va !*" The gentleman, who *was* one (to my personal knowledge), quietly retorted : "*Voilà un fichu, Madame, qui serait bien mieux à sa place sur vos épaules que dans votre bouche !*"—a splendid thrust, it must be admitted, and a capital specimen of *aouble entente*.

† *Fier comme un Écossais.* This saying, not of very common use now, does not apply to the Scotch community, of which I for one, as indeed all French people, can only think and speak with special respect. It is an old proverb, which simply refers to the Archers of the old Scotch Guard, whom Louis XI. (1461–1483) loaded with favours. This Scotch company (composed more or less exclusively of Caledonians) having become the most ancient of the four companies which formed the body-guard of our French kings, its members came to look upon themselves as superior to the others. Hence the proverb, which we find recorded in Rabelais (1483–1553) : "Mais d'aultres pays sont ici venus ne sçavons quels oultrecuydez, fiers comme Escossoys."—RABELAIS, *livre* v. *chap.* 19.

‡ *Fier comme Artaban.* The hero of this rather popular saying is Artaban, king of Parthia, the last of the Arsacides. After having been vanquished by Caracalla (A.D. 217), he made peace on very favourable terms with that Emperor's successor, and was so elated at what he considered a triumph that he took a double diadem and *proudly* assumed the title of Great King.

Some fourteen centuries later, Artaban's name was brought before the public by a romance of Madlle. de Scudéri (1607–1701), called *Artamène, ou le Grand Cyrus*, wherein the same Artaban is made to play a rather bombastic part, which, of course, did not escape Boileau's severe criticism. The expression *Fier comme Artaban* may, therefore, date only from this later period.

Elle a eu une fière peur = She was terribly frightened.

C'est égal, il faut un fier toupet pour avancer pareille chose = Well, it takes a deal of impudence to put forth such a statement.

Fierté.*—*Il en est qui dans leur mépris de la fierté étalent une fierté encore plus grande* = There are some who despise pride with a greater pride.

Fièvre.—*C'est une fièvre de cheval* = It is a violent fever.

Tomber de fièvre en chaud mal = To fall out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Figue.—*Moitié figues, moitié raisins* = Half in jest, half in earnest.

Ils n'oseront pas faire la figue = They will not dare show contempt.

Fil.—*Ce sont des finesses cousues de fil blanc* = Those are tricks easily seen through.

Nous leur donnerons du fil à retordre = We will cut out work for them. We will give them some trouble.

Ils suivent le fil de l'eau = They swim with the stream.

Ils ont renoué le fil de l'intrigue = They gathered up the broken threads of the intrigue.

Cela n'a tenu qu'à un fil = It hung only by a thread.

De fil en aiguille = From one subject to another.

Il n'est pas prudent d'aller de droit fil contre le sentiment connu de pareils hommes = It is not safe to go straight against the known views of such men.

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* *Il en est qui dans leur mépris de la fierté étalent une fierté encore plus grande;* "*Tal sprezza la superbia con una maggior superbia*" is an Italian proverb, which, as Dr. Trench judiciously remarks, might almost seem to have been founded on the story of Diogenes, who, treading under his feet a rich carpet of Plato's, exclaimed: "Thus I trample on the ostentation of Plato;"—"With an ostentation of thine own," was the other's excellent retort; even as on another occasion he observed, with admirable wit, that he saw the pride of the Cynic peeping through the rents of his mantle: for indeed pride can array itself quite as easily in rags as in purple; can affect squalors as earnestly as splendours; the lowest place and the last is of itself no security at all for humility, and out of a sense of this *we* very well have said: *As proud go behind as before.*

To this I would add: Who can imagine that the indecorous *blouse* of a certain late Socialist deputy of the present time was a token of humility?

Filer.—*Il faut filer* [familiar] = We must be off.

Il a jugé à propos de filer doux = He thought proper to lower his tone.

Le temps et l'argent filent vite = Time and money vanish rapidly.

Ils filent le parfait amour = They are passionately in love.

Du temps que Berthe filait [i.e., *quand les princesses s'occupaient de travaux manuels*] = In the good old times.

Filet.—*Il n'a pas le filet; Il a eu le filet bien coupé* = He has a well-oiled tongue; He is not tongue-tied.

Un filet de vinaigre = A dash of vinegar.

Fille.—*Fille oisive à mal pensive* = An idle brain is the devil's workshop.

La plus belle fille du monde ne peut donner que ce qu'elle a = No one can give more than he has.

Fillette.—*Bonjour lunettes, adieu fillettes* = A spectacled old party should give up doing the gallant.

Fils.—*En république on favorise généralement les hommes qui sont les fils de leurs œuvres* = In a republic self-made men are generally favoured.

C'est bien le fils de son père = He is a chip of the old block.

Fin [Subst.].—*La fin couronne l'œuvre* = All's well that ends well.

Cela sert à plusieurs fins = That answers several purposes.

On n'en voit pas la fin = There is no end of it.

À telle fin que de raison = At all events; For such purpose as may be required.

Qui veut la fin, veut les moyens = If you want the end you must use the means.

La fin, disent les cyniques, justifie les moyens = The object in view, the cynics say, justifies the means employed.

En toute chose il faut considérer la fin =

[La Fontaine.]

We should always look ahead—think of the consequences.

Je touche à la fin de mes peines = My troubles will soon be over.

Il a tout fait pour arriver à ses fins = He left no stone unturned to gain his point.

Je ne doute pas qu'il ne mène l'affaire à bonne fin = I have no doubt he will succeed in his enterprise.

Il a promis de payer fin courant = He promised to pay at the end of the present month.

Il a fait une belle fin = He died a glorious death.

Telle vie, telle fin = As they live, so they die.

À la fin; à la fin des fins = At last.

Une fin de non-recevoir [legal] = A plea for the non-acceptance of the adversary's demand.

Fin [Adj.].—*Ils savent le fort et le fin de l'affaire* = They know the long and the short of the affair.

Fin contre fin fait mauvaise doublure = Diamond cut diamond.

Le fin mot d'une affaire = The secret of a thing.

C'est un fin matois, un fin renard = He is a shrewd fellow, a cunning old fox.

Plus fin que lui n'est pas bête = He is no fool, far from it.

Ils jouaient au plus fin = They vied in cunning.

Ils étaient en partie fine = They had got up a secret pleasure party.

Une pluie fine = A drizzling rain.

Le fin fond de la mer = The very bottom of the sea.

Un fin gourmet = A good judge of wine.

Il a l'oreille fine = He has sharp ears.

On nous représente ce système politique comme le fin du fin = They would have us consider that political system as the very acme of sagacity.

Financer.—*On le fera financer* = They'll make him come down with his money [familiarly, They'll make him fork out.]

Finesse.—*Puissent mes lecteurs être en train de se pénétrer des finesses idiomatiques de la langue française!* = May my readers be in the way of mastering the idiomatic niceties of the French language!

Finir.—*Tout est bien qui finit bien* = All's well that ends well.

Qui bien engrène bien finit = He who begins well ends well.

Finissez donc = Have done.

Il a fini par consentir = He consented at last.

C'est à n'en plus finir = It is endless.

As-tu fini tes manières? [familiar] = What do you mean by it? Have done with your nonsense.

Fixe.—*Le baromètre est au beau fixe* = [See BEAU.]

Fixé.—*Je suis fixé sur son compte* = I know what to think of him.

Flambé.—*C'est une affaire flambée* = The affair has fallen through—is a failure.

Il est flambé = He is a ruined man.

Mon argent est flambé = My money is lost.

Flamberge.—*Ils ont mis les flamberges au vent* = They drew the sword.

Flamme.—*Porter le fer et la flamme dans un pays* = To waste a country with fire and sword.

Flanc.—*Elle prête le flanc au ridicule* = She lays herself open to ridicule.

Je suis sur le flanc = I am laid up.

Ils sont là qui se battent les flancs = There they are contriving and striving.

Par le flanc droit! Par le flanc gauche! = To the right about! To the left about!

Flanquer.—*Si ce gamin vous ennuie, flanquez-le à la porte* [familiar] = If that urchin bothers you, turn him out.

Il lui a flanqué une gifle [familiar] = He gave him a box on the ear.

Flatteur.—*Tout flatteur vit aux dépens de celui qui l'écoute* = All flatterers live at the expense of their listeners.

Flèche.—*Il ne sait plus de quel bois faire flèche* = [See BOIS.]

Il en est réduit à faire flèche de tout bois = He is put to the last shifts.

Tout bois n'est pas bon à faire flèche = You cannot get blood out of a post.

Fleur.—*C'est là fine fleur de la ville* = It is the cream of the town.

Les hirondelles volent à fleur de terre = Swallows fly close to the ground.

Je me rappelle bien les yeux à fleur de tête du vieux monsieur = I well recollect the goggle-eyes of the old gentleman.

L'affaire a passé à fleur de corde = The thing was carried after a hard struggle.

Dans la fleur de l'âge = In the prime of life.

On parle de lui comme de la fleur des pois = He is spoken of as the very pink of dandies.

Fleurette.*—*Conter fleurettes* = To say pretty things. To talk amorous nonsense.

Certes, pour un amant, la fleurette est mignonne,
Et vous me traitez là de gentille personne =
[MOLIÈRE, *Le Misanthrope.*]

Surely, for a lover this is a pretty love-speech, and you do treat me as a lady.

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* *Conter fleurettes.* I incline with some philologists to trace *fleurette* to the old verb *fleureter*, which occurs in Philippe de Commines with the meaning of "to talk nonsense." *Fleurette* may well indeed, like *fleur*, stand for a "pretty little thing," and we actually find an analogous expression in the Latin *Rosas loqui*, which can even be traced to the Greeks.

I venture further to think that this old word *fleureter* may do duty as the root of the English verb "to flirt," notwithstanding Dr. John Ogilvie's idea—an unpleasant one—of connecting both the verb "to flirt" and the corresponding noun with "fleer" or "leer."—OGILVIE'S *Student's Dictionary*, p. 270.

I would add that if my above suggestion holds good, the English verb "to flirt," thus traced to a French origin, would supply in its recent French adaptation as *flirter* (so familiar now to the readers of the *Figaro* and other *journaux mondains*) one of many instances of an old French word returning to its original home after having played truant, and assumed a foreign garb for centuries.

A propos of this French adaptation of "to flirt," I cannot help lamenting the growing tendency to introduce a string of exotic words thoroughly superfluous in our splendid language, universally and justly admired by all unbiassed critics as so clear and so neat, and I have the weakness to think, so perfectly adequate to all requirements. That such English words as spleen, as humour, as steeplechase, and all of a

Florès.—*Il fait florès* = He is getting on well. He is cutting a dash.

Flot.—*Il a bien du mal à se remettre à flot* = He finds it hard work to set himself up again.

À longs flots = Copiously.

Flûte.—*Accordez vos flûtes* = Settle the matter between you.

Ce qui vient par la flûte s'en retourne au son du tambour = Lightly come, lightly go.

Flûter.—*Ils flûtent bien* [familiar] = They are regular tipplers.

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like national character, should be introduced in their national garb into French, that is all very natural and legitimate; but what is the need of interlarding our prose with those new-fangled nouns "une interview," "des interviewers," and the verb "interviewer," which certainly do look and sound rather barbarous? And I ask the youthful contributors of the *Gaulois* and its fellows, why affect to speak of "le grand hall" when we have *halle* and *salle*, which mean just the same thing, whilst —I make bold to remark—not one French person in a thousand could contrive, or would even attempt, to pronounce *à l'Anglaise*, with the requisite English aspiration of its *h*, this unwelcome intruder? A Parisian speaking of "le hall St. Lazare," in preference to the graphic *Salle des Pas Perdus*, does seem to me supremely ridiculous.

Again, what fair excuse can be adduced for the intrusion into French of the word "ticket," which is itself (like the aforesaid "To flirt") a deserter from France, that is, a disguised descendant of *étiquette?* I was grieved to find this runaway of olden times taken up and publicly patronised in its Anglo-Saxon uniform by our official world at the time of the last Exhibition (in 1889). Surely *billet* answers every possible purpose. Why, then, naturalise this foreign substitute, whose patrons might well be asked, in the spirit of Alceste:

"*Sur quel fonds de mérite et de vertu sublime*
Appuyez-vous en lui l'honneur de votre estime?"

All such unnecessary duplicates should be exorcised, not indeed on patriotic grounds, which may well be put out of question here, but for the sake of harmony in the language, and as a protest against affectation.

Equally objectionable, of course, is the introduction into English of so many foreign words or phrases which do not express a given idea or fact more tersely or more vividly than the equivalent English words or phrases to which they are preferred. I have always admired the force of Lord Brougham's compliment to Mr. Fox, implied in the statement that the great Whig orator "shunned words borrowed from ancient and modern languages, and affected the pure Saxon tongue."

Fluxion.—*Fluxion de poitrine* = Inflammation of the lungs.

Foi.—*Je n'ajoute aucune foi à ce récit* = I attach no credit to that story.

Ils n'ont ni foi ni loi = They regard neither law nor gospel.

C'est un homme de bonne foi = He is an honest man.

Ma foi!—Ma foi, non! = Upon my word!—No, indeed!

Ce papier en fera foi = It will be proved by this paper.

En foi de quoi = In testimony whereof.

Foin.—*Chercher une aiguille dans une botte de foin* = To look for a needle in a stack of hay.

Quand il n'y a plus de foin au ratelier, les chevaux se battent =

Want makes a strife
'Tween man and wife.

Il a du foin dans ses bottes = He is very well off.

C'est un gaillard qui a mis du foin dans ses bottes = The fellow has feathered his nest.

Foin des fâcheux souvenirs! = Away with the painful recollections.

Foire.—*La foire n'est pas sur le pont* = There is no great hurry.

Ils s'entendent comme larrons en foire = [See s'ENTENDRE.]

Fois.—*Une fois n'est pas coutume* = Once does not make a habit. One swallow does not make a summer.

Folie.—*Il l'aime à la folie* = He loves her to distraction.

Fond.—*On ne peut faire fond sur ce qu'il dit* = No reliance can be placed on what he says.

La maison a été détruite de fond en comble = The house was burnt down to the ground.

Il est ruiné de fond en comble = He is utterly ruined.

Il possède l'anglais à fond = He is thoroughly master of the English language.

L'auteur avait fait fond sur le public du Mardi =

[F. SARCEY.]

The author had relied on the Tuesday public.

La Commission veut aller au fond des choses = The Committee wants to sift the matter through.

Nous courions à fond de train = We were running at full speed.

Le navire a été coulé à fond = The ship got sunk.

Ils ont fait une charge à fond = They attacked vigorously.

Fondé.—*Je suis fondé à le croire* = I have reason, authority to believe it.

Cela démontre le bien fondé de mon calcul = [See BIEN.]

Fondre.—*L'ours a-t-il dans les bois la guerre avec les ours?*
Le vautour dans les airs fond-il sur les vautours? =
[BOILEAU.]

Does the bear in the woods wage war against the bears? Does the vulture in the air pounce upon the vultures?

Fonds.—*Il a vendu son fonds de commerce* = He has sold his business.

Il a placé sa fortune à fonds perdu = He has sunk his fortune in an annuity.

Travaillez, prenez de la peine:
C'est le fonds qui manque le moins =
[LA FONTAINE.]

Work and take pains, it is the safest investment.

Il n'est pas en fonds en ce moment = He is hard up for cash just now.

Biens-fonds = Landed property.

Le fonds social = The capital-stock.

Fontaine.—*Ne dites jamais: Fontaine, je ne boirai pas de ton eau* = You never know what you may come to, what you may be driven to.

For.—*Je suis persuadé que vous pensez comme moi dans votre for intérieur* = I am satisfied you agree with me in your innermost thoughts, *in petto.*

Force.—*Je ne suis pas de force à lutter contre lui* = I am no match for him.

Vous n'êtes pas de cette force-là = You are not up to that.

Il est de première force au cricket = He is a first-rate cricketer.

Force m'a été d'y renoncer = I was compelled to give it up.

J'en veux à toute force = I insist on having some.

Il faut à toute force empêcher ce scandale = You must prevent that scandal by all means in your power.

Il leur a adressé force remercîments et compliments = He showered thanks and compliments upon them.

Moyennant quoi, votre salaire
Sera force reliefs de toutes les façons =
[LA FONTAINE.]

In return for which, your salary shall be no end of pickings—of leavings from the table—of all kinds.

Pour moi, satisfaisant mes appétits gloutons,
J'ai dévoré force moutons =
[LA FONTAINE.]

As for me, indulging my ravenous appetite,
I have devoured many sheep.

Il faudra bien qu'il consente, de gré ou de force = He shall have to consent, willingly or unwillingly.

Espérons que force restera à la loi = Let us hope that the strong arm of law shall prevail.

À force de zèle et de travail = By dint of zeal and industry.

À force de sagesse on peut être blâmable = [MOLIÈRE.]
Wisdom may be carried to an excess.

La force prime le droit = Might is right.

Nous étions à bout de force = We were exhausted.

Ce trait est de sa force : Je le reconnais bien là = That is exactly like him.

C'était un cas de force majeure = It was a case of absolute necessity.

Faire force de voiles—Faire force de rames = Literally, To crowd on all sail—To tug vigorously at the oar : Figuratively, To work hard, with tooth and nail.

À force de temps et de soins = With time and attention.

Elle a repris des forces = She picked up strength.

Ils l'ont emporté de vive force = They carried it by main force.
Nous étions en force = We mustered strong.
Dans la force de l'âge = In the prime of life.
Un vrai tour de force = A regular feat.

Forcer.—*Je n'aime pas qu'on me force ainsi la main* = I do not like to be thus driven, compelled to do a thing.
On a forcé le pas = The pace was quickened.
On a forcé la consigne = The order was broken through.
L'auteur a un peu forcé la note = The author exaggerates slightly.
Travaux forcés = Penal servitude [*not* hard labour] inflicted on a convict.

Forfait.—*J'ai traité à forfait* = I have contracted by the job.

Forger.—*À force de forger on devient forgeron* = Practice makes all things easy.

Fort.—*Dans le fort de la mêlée* = In the thickest of the fight.
Dans le fort de la colère il s'est oublié = In the heat of passion he forgot himself.
Ne sortez pas au fort de la chaleur = Do not go out in the hottest time of the day.
Nous fîmes voile au fort de l'hiver = We set sail in the depth of winter.
Pour le coup, c'est vraiment trop fort—or emphatically, *c'est par trop fort* = Now, this is really too bad.
À plus forte raison = All the more reason; *à fortiori.*
De plus en plus fort = Worse and worse.
Voilà qui est fort = That is coming rather strong.
Il est fort comme un Turc = He is as strong as a horse.
Les forts de la halle = The market-porters.
C'est une forte maison = It is a large establishment.
Fort de votre appui, il persévère = Encouraged by your support, he perseveres.
Un esprit fort = A strong-minded party.
Il est très fort sur l'algèbre = He is well up in algebra.
Elle est forte musicienne = She is proficient in music.

Le pauvre garçon n'est pas fort = The poor fellow is not bright, not up to much.

Je me suis fâché, c'était plus fort que moi = I got angry, I could not help it.

Le plus fort est fait = The hardest part is done; the worst is over.

Il sait le fort et le faible de l'affaire = [See FAIBLE.]

Il y a fort à faire pour en arriver là = There is a great deal to do to reach that point—to bring about that result.

Il se fait fort d'en venir à bout = He undertakes to manage it.

Il y aurait fort à dire d'un côté comme de l'autre = Much might be said on both sides.

La raison du plus fort est toujours la meilleure = [LA FONTAINE.]

Might is right. Where force bears the sway, there is no room for reason.

Fortune.—*Plus la fortune rit, plus on doit trembler* = The more fortune smiles upon you, the more you should tremble.

Il faut faire contre mauvaise fortune bon cœur = We must bear up against ill-luck—make the best of a bad bargain.

Venez donc dîner avec nous à la fortune du pot = Do come and take pot-luck with us.

Fossé.—*Au bord du fossé la culbute* = [See CULBUTE.]

Fou.—*Il est fou à lier* = He is raving mad.

La pièce a eu un succès fou = The play had an enormous success.

Il y avait un monde fou = There was an immense crowd.

Il a payé ce tableau un prix fou = He paid an enormous price, an unreasonable price, for that picture.

Un rire fou = A tremendous laughter.

Plus on est de fous, plus on rit = The more the merrier.

Muraille blanche, papier de fou = Fools write their names on the walls. *Nomina stultorum semper parietibus adsunt.*

Fouet.—*Il fait claquer son fouet* = He makes the most of himself.

Fouetter.—*J'ai bien d'autres chiens à fouetter* = I have other fish to fry.

Il n'y a pas de quoi fouetter un chat = There is no occasion to make such a fuss; *i.e.*, not enough to whip a cat for.

Et maintenant, fouette, cocher! = And now, fire away! Go ahead!

Fouillé.—*Il excelle à créer des types curieusement fouillés* = He excels in bringing out characters curiously worked out in their minutest details.

Fouler.—*Ils foulent aux pieds tout sentiment de justice* = They trample under foot every feeling of justice.

Four.—*Il fait noir comme dans un four* = [See Faire.]

Ç'a été un four complet * = It was a complete failure.

On ne peut être en même temps au four et au moulin = One cannot be in two places at the same time.

Ce n'est pas pour vous que le four chauffe = There is nothing for you. Don't you wish you may get it!

Vous viendrez cuire à mon four = [See Cuire.]

Fourche.—*Il leur a fallu passer sous les fourches caudines* † = They had to submit to the most humiliating conditions.

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* The expression *Faire four*, which has become of common use, was originally applied exclusively to the failure of a theatrical performance. In olden times, when the actors found there was not a sufficient audience assembled, they would return the money, and turn out the public. This was called *faire four*.

Now, it is well known that Italian comedy was formerly an important element in the public amusements of Paris; hence the very probable introduction of the Italian word *fuori*, *i.e.*, out, out of doors, which may still be heard in the Peninsula when actors are called out: "*Fuori! fuori!*" From *fuori* the transition to the French *four* is an easy and natural one: Be this as it may, *Faire four* now applies to the failure of any enterprise, and answers to that other word of Italian importation, *fiasco*, which has the same melancholy significance, and is itself in such frequent use that it ought not to be so completely ignored in almost all French dictionaries.

† This proverbial saying, *Passer sous les fourches caudines*, refers to a well-known episode of Roman history, as related by Livy. The *Furculæ Caudinæ*, thus called from Caudium, a city of Samnium,

Fourchette.—*C'est une belle fourchette* = He plays an excellent knife and fork.

Fourgon.—*La pelle se moque du fourgon* = The pot calls the kettle black.

Fourmi.—*J'ai des fourmis dans les jambes* = I have pins and needles in my legs.

Fourni.—*Une chevelure bien fournie* = A thick head of hair.

Fourré.—*Il m'a porté un coup fourré* = He has done me a secret injury; he has injured me behind my back.

Ce n'est qu'une paix fourrée * = It is only a patched-up peace.

Fourreau.—*La lame chez lui use le fourreau* = His mind is too active for his body [literally, The blade wears out the sheath.]

se Fourrer.—*Il faut qu'il se fourre partout* = He must needs thrust himself in everywhere.

Il ne sait où se fourrer = He does not know where to hide himself.

Frai.—*Voulez-vous du frai ou de la laite?* = Which will you have, some hard roe or some soft?

Ces pièces de monnaie gardées en réserve par la Banque de France n'ont naturellement subi aucun frai, bien que frappées depuis plusieurs années = Those coins kept back by the Bank of France have naturally undergone no loss in weight or appearance, although coined several years ago.

South Italy, were two narrow defiles or gorges, united by a range of mountains on each side. The Romans went through the first pass, but found the second blocked up; on returning, they found the first similarly obstructed. Being thus hemmed in by the Samnites, commanded by C. Pontius, they surrendered at discretion, B.C. 321 (after a defeat, according to Cicero), and were compelled to pass under the yoke.

* The name of *Paix fourrée*, also called *Paix plâtrée*, was given to the peace concluded at Longjumeau with the Huguenots under Condé and Coligny on the 23rd March 1568, being so called because it was patched up in a great hurry at a time of great confusion. Like the following treaty of peace between the same parties, this one was also called *une paix boîteuse et mal assise* (see note on BOÎTEUX); for the sinister Catherine of Medici had only signed it to gain time for another war against the Protestants.

Frais.—*Nous prenions le frais aux fenêtres* = We were taking the air at the windows.

Il commence à faire frais = It is beginning to get cool.

Mettez ce vin au frais = Put this wine in a cool place.

Il est frais et gaillard pour son âge = He is hale and hearty for his age.

Le pain frais ne me vaut rien = New bread is not good for me.

Ils se sont mis en frais = They went to expense.

Il a fait de grands frais pour l'impressionner favorablement = He made great efforts to impress her favourably.

Mais il en a été pour ses frais = But he lost his time and pains: he failed entirely.

Le directeur n'a pas fait ses frais = The manager did not cover his expenses.

Avec ces dynamiteurs la liberté fera malheureusement tous les frais de la sécurité = With those dynamiters freedom shall unfortunately be sacrificed for the sake of security.

Franc.—*Un franc vaurien* = A thorough scamp.

Une franche bévue = A downright blunder.

Deux jours francs = Two whole days.

Un paquet franc de port = A parcel carriage paid.

Il est franc du collier = [See Collier.]

Français.—*Je vous le dis en bon français* = I tell you so plainly—in good French; in plain English.

Il nous a reçus à la bonne franquette = He received us cordially without ceremony.

Frapper.—*Champagne frappé* = Iced champagne.

se Frapper.—*La guinée, dont la fabrication remonte à 1663, ne se frappe plus* = Guineas, which were first made in 1663, are no longer coined.

Fraude.—*Ils l'ont passé en fraude* = They smuggled it.

Frein.—*On me laissa ronger mon frein dans mon cachot* = [*Gil Blas.*]

They left me to fret at leisure in my dungeon.

Friand.—*C'est un morceau friand* = It is a tit-bit.

Friche.—*Cette terre est en friche* = This piece of ground lies fallow.

Frime.—*Ce départ pour l'Amérique n'est qu'une frime* = This departure for America is a mere pretence.

Ce n'était que pour la frime = It was only a make-believe.

Frire.—*Il n'a plus de quoi frire* = He is quite ruined.

Friser.—*Sa raideur frisait l'impertinence* = [E. ABOUT.] His stiffness bordered on impertinence.

Elle frise la trentaine = She is getting on fast for thirty.

La balle lui a frisé l'épaule = The ball just grazed his shoulder.

Froc.—*De chagrin il prit le froc* = In his sorrow he turned monk.

Il jeta le froc aux orties = He gave up his profession.

Froid.—*Cela ne fera ni chaud ni froid* = [See CHAUD.]

Arrière ceux dont la bouche
Souffle le chaud et le froid ! =
[LA FONTAINE.]

Away with those whose mouth blows hot and cold!

Cela fait froid dans le dos = It chills you in the back.

C'est un gaillard qui n'a pas froid aux yeux = He is a plucky fellow who is not to be intimidated.

Pourquoi lui battez-vous froid ? = [See BATTRE.]

Dieu donne le froid selon le drap * = God gives the cold according to the cloth.

Dieu mesure le froid à la brebis tondue = God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.

---

* *Dieu donne le froid selon le drap.* Of this proverb my late revered colleague, Dr. Trench, says: "It is very beautiful, but attains not to the tender beauty of our own, 'God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.'" Now, it seems to me that we have here a difference in the wording without a distinction in the sense, and I submit that the very old French proverb, *Dieu donne le froid selon la robbe* (I purposely keep the old spelling), is quite as beautiful in its spirit as the English version; for the *robbe* refers to the more or less of shearing, and we find the saying in these words quoted as being a very old French proverb in Henri Estienne's *Prémices*, p. 47, a work which dates from the beginning of the 16th century.

Moreover, we have long had the exact equivalent of Dr. Trench's favourite in its *ipsissima verba*: *Dieu mesure le froid à la brebis tondue.*

Fromage.—*Entre la poire et le fromage* = At dessert.

Front.—*Il mène toutes ces différentes entreprises de front* = He carries on all those various concerns simultaneously.

Il heurte de front toutes les idées reçues = He runs counter to all received notions.

Quel front! = What impudence!

Quoi! vous avez le front de trouver cela beau? = [MOLIÈRE.]

What! you dare to find that beautiful?

Ils marchaient tous de front = They all walked abreast.

Frotter.—*Ce document sent l'âme violente et rusée du demi-barbare frotté de civilisation* = This document betrays the violent and cunning spirit of a half-barbarian, veneered over with civilisation.

Il s'est fait frotter d'importance = He got a good drubbing.

se Frotter.—*Je ne veux pas m'y frotter* = I am not going to meddle with it.

Qui s'y frotte s'y pique = Touch me who dares. Gather thistles, expect pricks.

Fruit.—*Rien n'est bon comme le fruit défendu* = There's nothing so good as forbidden fruit. Stolen fruit is sweet.

C'est un fruits secs de St. Cyr * = He was plucked at the St. Cyr school.

Fumée.—*Nos espérances s'en sont allées en fumée* = Our hopes all came to nothing.

Il n'y a pas de fumée sans feu = There is no smoke without fire.

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* M. Génin, in his "*Notes sur le Dictionnaire Français*," explains the origin of the expression *fruits secs*, which is now of frequent use.

In the early days of the Polytechnic School there was a student from the South whose father was a wholesale dry fruit merchant. This young man, who had no taste for mathematics, did little or no work, and to his comrades' remarks about the consequences of his indifference he would frequently reply: "What will it matter to me if I fail? I shall go in for *fruits secs*, like my father." And, to be sure, that became his lot, and ever since the expression remained, and a young fellow plucked at the final examination, or who turns out a failure in any school or college, is called a *fruits secs*.

Il n'y a pas de feu sans fumée = A strong passion always betrays itself.

Il était au banquet, mais il a mangé son pain à la fumée du rôt = He was present at the entertainment, but he did not partake of it.

Funèbre.—*Entrepreneur de pompes funèbres* = Undertaker.

Fur.—*Au fur et à mesure que . . .* = In proportion as. As soon as . . .

Fureur.—*Là-dessus, il est entré en fureur* = Thereupon he got into a fury.

Cela fait fureur en ce moment = It is quite the rage just now.

Il a la fureur du jeu = He has a passion for gambling.

Furieux.—*C'est un furieux mangeur* = He is a prodigious eater.

Fuseau.—*Le fuseau doit suivre le hoyau* = The wife must emulate the husband's industry. Literally, The spindle must follow the mattock.

Des jambes de fuseau = Spindle-shanks.

Fusée.—*Voici une belle fusée à démêler* = Here is a fine bone to pick; a nice intrigue to unravel.

Fusil.—*Fusil à deux coups* = Double-barrelled gun.

Fût.—*Cette bière a un goût de fût* = This beer has a twang of the cask.

Fûté.—*C'est un fûté matois* = He is a cunning old fox.

Futur.—~~*Le futur époux*~~; *les futurs conjoints* = ~~The intended husband~~; the husband and wife that are to be.

Fuyant.—*Un front fuyant* = A receding forehead.

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